

THE MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

focus

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GLOBALISATION

» FAIR GO OR RAW DEAL?

» HELLO ... THE WORLD'S CALLING





GLOBALISATION – THE GREATER FLOW OF PEOPLE, IDEAS, INFORMATION, GOODS, SERVICES AND CAPITAL – IS CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD INTERRELATES.

FROM THE MINISTER

Globalisation holds the promise of enormous benefits for all people of the world. Greater trade and investment has been instrumental in lifting millions of people out of poverty, particularly in our region, over recent decades.

Australia has taken a lead in embracing and promoting globalisation especially in trade, economic liberalisation and information technology. As a result, Australia is well placed to assist our neighbours in the Asia Pacific – home to 800 million of the world's poor – to ensure the benefits of globalisation are maximised and distributed as widely as possible.

Serious challenges confront developing countries that have not integrated with the global economy – countries that account for up to 2 billion people. Often experiencing internal conflict, low trade and investment, and weak business activity, many countries have not been able to benefit from globalisation. Transnational crimes like money laundering are also difficult challenges to address.

The Australian aid program

seeks to assist developing countries by addressing some of these issues. For example, we are helping developing countries strengthen governance and their capacity to participate in the global economy. In 2003–04 Australia will provide an estimated \$370 million for governance programs promoting accountability, transparency and mature institutions in order to secure business and investment confidence. We have also been promoting the wider use of information communication technologies through the successful Virtual Colombo Plan.

Developing countries have much riding on a successful outcome to the World Trade Organisation's Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations. No more is this so than in the area of agricultural trade liberalisation. As the Doha Development Round approaches its mid-way point at the Cancun Ministerial Meeting in September 2003, Australia's trade-related assistance to developing countries will become increasingly important.

Aid, however, is not enough. Progress in the Doha round on market access for developing country imports, particularly in the agricultural sector, will deliver greater benefits for developing countries. If developing countries increase their share of world exports by 5 per cent, this will generate around \$650 to \$700 billion per year – at least seven times as much as they receive in aid.

Australia has a strong commitment to liberalising markets and helping the poor to trade out of poverty. From 1 July 2003, Australia will provide tariff and quota-free access for all goods produced in the world's 49 Least Developed Countries and East Timor.

Greater integration with the world economy and more openness to other cultures offers all citizens of the globe a more hopeful future. Australia is playing a positive role to ensure globalisation works to enhance prosperity for all people.

Alexander Downer
Minister for Foreign Affairs

ABOVE: The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, and the Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile, jointly launched the Government's White Paper on Australia's foreign and trade policies, *Advancing the National Interest*. The strategy document makes clear that the Government will continue to work closely with the international community to combat global threats, such as terrorism, and respond to the challenges of economic globalisation. Photo: Michael Jensen/DFAT

Contents



13



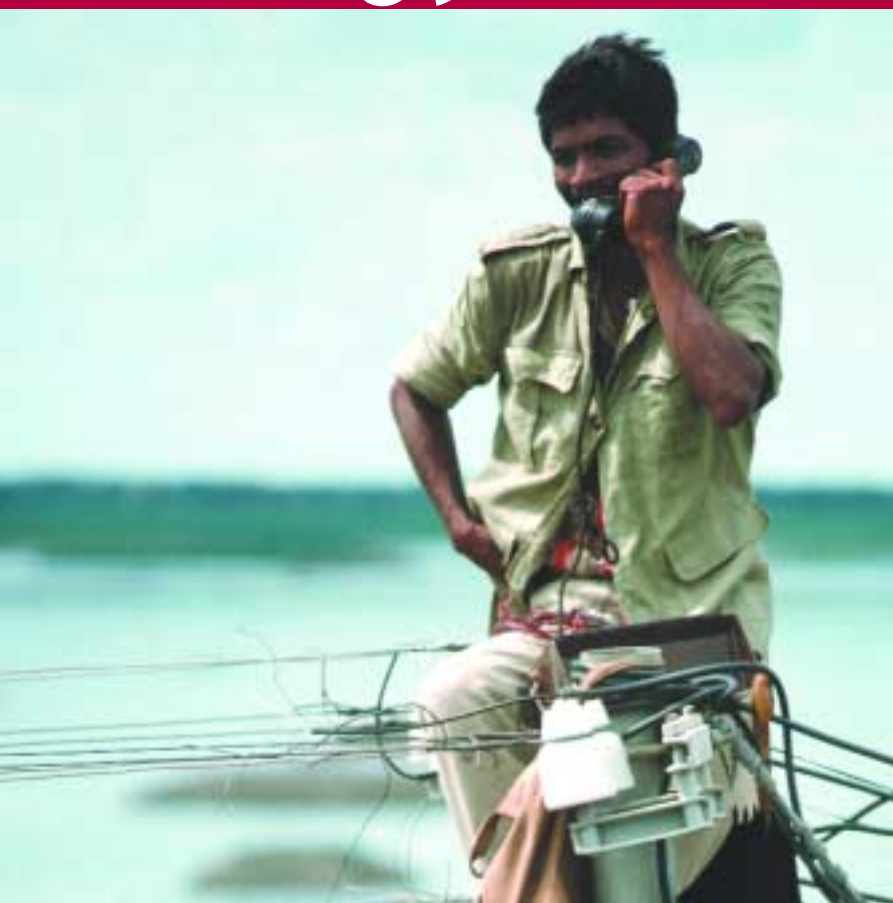
20



23



32



(inside front cover) From the Minister

- 2 Focus on globalisation
- 3 What's new
- 4 Opening new markets:
- 6 Fair go or raw deal?
- 9 Hello ... the world's calling
- 12 Faces of globalisation
- 16 Going global in remote China
- 18 After the war
- 19 On the ground in Kuwait
- 21 Power of one
- 22 Restoring health and dignity
- 23 China county 10 years on
- 25 Fun and games
- 26 Water – the big picture
- 28 VIEWPOINT: Getting IT right
- 29 EDUCATION: Learning by letters
- 30 HEALTH: At the cutting edge
- 31 VOLUNTEERING: Have skills, will travel
- 32 In brief

(inside back cover) Global education

Government aid in focus The Australian aid program is committed to reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development in the Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Australian businesses and people play a major role in delivering the aid program. Australian expertise, Australian experience and Australian resources are used to tackle poverty. And by investing in development Australia is investing in its future. In 2002–03 Australia plans to spend almost \$1.82 billion on development assistance. The aid program focuses on promoting regional peace, stability and economic development through several hundred large and small-scale projects. Countries Australia is committed to include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu (the Pacific region); Indonesia, East Timor, Viet Nam, Philippines, China, Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Burma (East Asia); Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan (South Asia); and Africa and the Middle East.

COVER: Checking phone lines, Savar region, north of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Globalisation offers opportunities for everyone, even those in remote areas, to participate in a global society of information exchange and trade. Photo: Heldur Netocny/Panos Pictures

FOCUS ON GLOBALISATION



The Minister for Foreign Affairs' statement to Parliament in September 2002 *Australian Aid: Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity* identifies globalisation as a key driver of economic growth and poverty reduction.

The evidence supports this. In the Asia-Pacific region, countries that have opened up to trade and investment have achieved much higher rates of growth and poverty reduction than those countries that have not.

This is why Australia plays an active and positive role in helping its neighbours harness the prospects offered by globalisation. Australia's technical assistance, capacity building and policy dialogue in trade, investment and information communication technologies are important in maximising the benefits and addressing the challenges of globalisation for developing countries.

Information communication technologies are crucial in our increasingly globalised world. Australia recognises that affordable access to information and knowledge is vital to development. Australia is implementing its commitment to the Virtual Colombo Plan made in August 2001 of \$200 million over five years to help bridge the digital divide by supporting the

development and adoption of information technologies in developing countries.

Since 1996–97, Australia's funding for trade-related technical assistance and capacity building has increased by more than 72 per cent to an estimated \$31 million in 2002–03. This aid is successfully helping our partner countries integrate into the global community.

We have helped China's accession to the WTO (World Trade Organisation) by training more than 1,700 officials in trade policies and practices. China's accession is expected to generate an additional 1–2 per cent annual GDP (gross domestic product) growth.

We have helped small developing countries to follow and participate in WTO negotiations by funding an office in Geneva to provide access to up-to-date information.

We have helped the Indonesian Government protect intellectual property rights, develop small and medium enterprises and promote exports as part of a \$54 million Indonesia–Australia training program.

Our Pacific Island neighbours face special challenges in a globalised world. Pacific Islands are small and remote from markets and have serious institutional problems.

To help address these challenges, the Australian Government will strengthen trade-negotiating capacity, support the Pacific Island Trade and Investment Commission and enhance customs and quarantine systems.

Globalisation holds the potential for vast benefits – particularly in poverty reduction. I am confident Australia's aid is helping countries to reap these benefits and playing an important role in meeting the needs of the Asia Pacific and beyond.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Davis'.

Bruce Davis
Director General
Australian Agency for International
Development (AusAID)

WHAT'S NEW

WATER POLICY LAUNCH

Making Every Drop Count: Water and Australian Aid describes how the Australian Government is helping developing countries tackle the water challenges facing them.

In Australia's immediate region, two billion people do not have hygienic sanitation and about 700 million do not have access to safe drinking water. The global figures are even higher.

'Water is essential for health, food production and poverty reduction. Over the past century the world's population has tripled and water use has increased six-fold. As demand for water increases, so does the potential for tension between users within and between countries. This has implications for stability in our region,' Mr Downer said.

Making Every Drop Count describes how Australia is helping developing countries design strong water policies, attract investment for water programs, promote water-efficient agriculture and improve the management of floods.

'Water is essential to development. Australia has much



The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, launched the Australian Government's water policy for the overseas aid program on 20 March 2003, at Parliament House, Canberra. Photo: Baystreet

to contribute. *Making Every Drop Count* will ensure that contribution is effective,' said Mr Downer. EJ

The water policy can be found at <http://www.aid.gov.au/publications/pdf/everydrop.pdf>

VISIT TO EAST TIMOR

Australia is providing \$150 million in development assistance to East Timor over four years and is one of the country's main aid donors. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chris Gallus, paid her first visit to East Timor earlier this year on behalf of the Australian Government to sign a memorandum of understanding on development.

While in Dili, Mrs Gallus held discussions with senior East Timor government ministers about Australia's plans for future aid. She also launched an \$18 million project managed by Illawarra Technology Corporation on behalf of the Australian Government to help build up public administration in the country. Mrs Gallus announced a new \$8 million Ministry of Planning and Finance capacity building project to strengthen East Timor's public and financial management systems.

In Liquica, west of Dili, Mrs Gallus visited the Dili National Hospital, where Australia is proudly supporting a mental health program. Mrs Gallus also travelled southwest to the district



Mrs Gallus with an East Timorese family in a village on the outskirts of Suai, Covalima District, East Timor. Mrs Gallus was visiting a women and children's health clinic that's partly funded by the Australian Government through AusAID's East Timor Community Assistance Scheme. Photo: Ross Muir/AusAID

of Covalima where Australia is working with the East Timorese Government on a water and sanitation project. The joint venture aims to deliver clean water and sanitation to villages in what is one of the poorest areas of East Timor.

While she was in East Timor, Mrs Gallus presented certificates to students recently graduated under the Australian Development Scholarship Scheme and farewelled the latest group of scholarship holders.

Acknowledging the needs facing the people of East Timor, Mrs Gallus said, 'Poverty reduction is our priority in East Timor. More than 40 per cent of East Timorese live in poverty and 80 per cent of those live in rural areas. Australia is committed to helping rebuild the country as a new democratic nation.' EJ

AFTER THE WAR

Following years of neglect by a brutal regime, the task of rebuilding Iraq has only just begun. Australia was quick to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Iraq and has committed more than \$100 million in humanitarian assistance. In addition to providing

direct funding, Australia is placing technical experts with the United States-led reconstruction team in Iraq and Australian wheat is being milled into flour and distributed through the United Nations' World Food Programme. See page 18 for the full story. LM





OPENING NEW MARKETS

IN EVERY CASE WHERE A POOR NATION HAS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERCOME ITS POVERTY, THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WHILE ENGAGING IN PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT MARKETS AND OPENING ITSELF TO THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN GOODS, INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY – THAT IS, BY PARTICIPATING IN GLOBALISATION. **FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, ERNESTO ZEDILLO**

Market day in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Photo: Emma Harvie

GLOBALISATION

FAIR GO OR RAW DEAL?

Globalisation brings people all over the world closer together through a free flow of ideas, people, goods, services and capital.

Globalisation means people can easily communicate with their friends and family across the world by email, video conference and phone. It means Australian farmers can sell their produce all over the world. It means people can enjoy a wider range of goods and services.

Does globalisation mean that multinational companies can go anywhere, pay low wages and exploit the poor? Should developing countries say 'no' to globalisation?

It's impossible to ignore the reality of an interdependent world. But, the potential exists to bring advantages to everyone in the global village – especially the world's poor.

Australia's overseas aid program works with its partner countries to help them build their capacity to be part of regional and global trading arrangements. Trade and investment offer opportunities for growth and sustained poverty reduction.

Evidence shows that globalisation has boosted incomes, raised living standards and reduced poverty in many parts of the world for average people. India and Korea are two developing countries that have embraced globalisation. Since 1960, life expectancy in India has risen by more than 20 years, and illiteracy in South Korea has gone from nearly 30 per cent to almost zero.

No country has succeeded over the past 50 years by ignoring globalisation. Between 1993 and 1998 in developing countries that opened their economies to trade, the number of people living in absolute poverty declined by 14 per cent. In contrast, poverty rose by 4 per cent in developing countries that did not open themselves to trade.

HOW AUSTRALIAN AID HELPS

Australia's aid program has been helping developing countries to manage the challenges of an interdependent world.

The issue of good governance – eliminating corruption and human rights abuses, having good control of public money and accountability, and avoiding excessive military influence – increasingly sets apart those states that succeed in a global, integrated economy and those that fail. For that reason, promoting good governance globally is a major focus of Australia's aid program.

In fact, the aid program will spend over \$370 million on improving governance, on top of the significant spending on infrastructure – like roads and ports – and on health and education.

Australia's aid programs in good governance are also helping developing countries deal with transnational crimes like money laundering. Money laundering is the use of financial systems to disguise the illegal origins of the proceeds of crime, making them appear to be legal funds. Money laundering can be linked to any crime that generates significant proceeds, such as extortion, drug trafficking, arms smuggling and white-collar crime. Australia is helping to strengthen banking sectors in developing countries so they can better identify illegal transactions.

AID IS NOT ENOUGH TO REDUCE POVERTY

While aid is vital – it's not enough. Trade and investment, not aid, are the chief drivers of development by

- » providing access to a broader range of goods, services and technologies
- » accelerating the flow of private capital and building foreign exchange reserves
- » acting as an employment multiplier so the local workforce can develop an entrepreneurial skill base.

The figures speak for themselves. At some \$90 billion a year, aid makes up only a small portion of the resources available to support development. In contrast, developing countries earn close to \$3.6 trillion from exports and attract almost \$360 billion in foreign direct investment annually.

THE DOHA TRADE ROUND

Australia has taken a lead in helping developing countries strengthen their capacity to trade and participate in the WTO's (World Trade Organisation's) Doha Development Round of trade negotiations.

The WTO's Doha Development Round is designed to look at the problems developing countries face in engaging in global trade. The focus of this round of talks



Workers sitting on heaps of raw cotton in Parakou in the west African nation of Benin. Cotton is one of the country's main exports. Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures

indicates how crucial development is to the multilateral trade agenda.

A successful conclusion to the Doha round would mean rich countries would lower their barriers to developing country imports. This can deliver even greater development benefits than aid. For example, if developing countries increased their share of world exports by 5 per cent, this will generate around \$650 to \$700 billion per year – at least seven times more than aid.

Agriculture is central to the Doha round negotiations. Developing countries – over two thirds of the WTO's membership – are overwhelmingly agricultural exporters. Substantial lowering of

trade barriers – especially to global agricultural markets – is arguably the single greatest contribution the Doha round can make to alleviating poverty in the developing world.

Australia will continue to lead the fight to put trade in agriculture on the same footing as trade in goods. Australia backs its words by actions and has provided generous market access to the poorest countries in the world for 25 years. From 1 July 2003, Australia will remove all remaining barriers to least developed countries. Countries such as East Timor, Bangladesh, Cambodia and many African countries will benefit.

That's why Australia's aid program places high importance on

A EUROPEAN COW GETS MORE IN SUBSIDIES EVERY DAY THAN 1.2 BILLION POOR PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE ON

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) has calculated that total support and protection to agriculture in rich countries amounted to US\$311 billion in 2001, which is roughly six times the amount that developed countries spend on development assistance.

The figures on European cattle subsidies show how absurd agricultural protection really is, and how much subsidies hurt the poorer developing countries.

In 1999–2001, the average cow in the European Union received support of approximately US\$2.20 per day.

Compare that with the 47 per cent of people in Africa who, in 1999, had incomes below US\$1 a day, and the 75 per cent who had incomes below US\$2 per day.

Many developing countries will benefit directly from the elimination of these sorts of harmful subsidies and trade barriers in Europe and elsewhere.

helping developing countries to trade effectively and promote their own interests in WTO and regional trade negotiations. Australia's aid program funds a number of direct trade-related technical assistance and capacity building activities such as:

- » the WTO Global Trust Fund set up to ensure WTO developing country members can maximise the opportunities of the Doha round negotiations by providing negotiation skills and training to understand the legal framework.
- » the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation to support

developing countries – particularly Pacific Islands – in WTO negotiations by funding an office in Geneva to provide access to up-to-date information.

- » a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity Building Project for South-East Asian countries to improve capacity to set up quarantine systems to help agricultural exports and to protect crops from pests and diseases coming in.
- » trade training for negotiators from Africa, Pacific and Asia to increase policy expertise to

ensure good representation of their countries' interests.

SHARING THE BENEFITS

Globalisation holds the promise of enormous benefits for the peoples of the world. To make this promise a reality, it's important to find a way to carefully manage the process. Attention must be paid to reducing the costs and ensuring that the benefits can be widely and fairly distributed. In this global community, everyone needs to work energetically towards that goal.

Australia is actively supporting its partner countries integrating

into the new interdependent world. Globalisation, by offering a brighter future for all, provides one of the surest paths to growth, stability and prosperity. EP

BELOW LEFT: Ethnic Uighur Muslim men gather to trade animals at the famed Sunday market at Kashgar, Xinjiang Province in north-western China. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

BELOW: International trade between former enemies. A female Russian trader in Beijing, China, oversees the packing of products for export to Russia. Photo: Mark Henley/Panos Pictures



INDONESIAN EXPORTERS REACH GLOBAL MARKETS

Dealing in international markets is always challenging – and it's more so when communication skills are weak. For a group of Indonesian business owners wanting to access global markets, help is at hand. Six courses in 'Effective Communication for Exporters' have been run under the Indonesia–Australia Specialised Training Project. Conducted in Jakarta, Surabaya and Medan and

jointly run by Indonesian and Australian companies, they have proved highly successful.

Participants examined both negative and positive implications of conducting business in a globalised environment. Through role plays and export simulations they openly explored the kinds of issues exporters must face in competitive global markets. Business owners were also taught

the value of understanding cultural preferences and cross-cultural sensitivities in communicating in an international forum.

Australia supports the Indonesian Government's commitment to the ASEAN free trade agreement and the World Trade Organisation's liberalisation of trade in services and products. The Indonesia–Australia Specialised Training Project has

conducted a number of courses to assist Indonesian middle managers to support multilateral negotiations. Other courses have looked at the future implications of trade liberalisation for Indonesia and ways of raising the country's global competitiveness.

Wendy Bell, Team Leader of the Indonesia–Australia Specialised Training Project <www.iastp.org>



HELLO... THE WORLD'S CALLING

'The world is getting smaller' is a frequently repeated observation these days. One of the key reasons is the expansion of information and communications technologies (ICTs) – and not just in the developed world.

There are many examples of poor communities benefiting from information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The installation of two-way radio systems in remote village health centres can provide access to crucial health information in an emergency. Over the longer term, a two-way radio system makes it possible to contact larger clinic services for general health advice. Farmers with access to a village telephone can ring around for the best prices for their produce and find the cheapest credit options. No longer are they entirely reliant on middlemen able to exploit their dependency.

The widespread use of inexpensive phone cards, mobile phones and Internet cafes all point to a world increasingly wired to a global communication system. This new reality offers exciting opportunities for individuals and communities. Even in remote areas, it's possible to participate in a global society of information exchange and trade.

'Older' technologies including radio, telephone and television are combining with the 'new' technologies of computers, the Internet and satellites to create more opportunities for people to connect with others. The trend towards lower costs also makes it

easier for people in poor countries to use the new technologies.

Mobile phones are now viewed by many in low-income countries as more reliable and less costly than fixed line phones. Trade, education, health, rural development, as well as remote indigenous communities, can all benefit from international ties made easier by these technologies.

In Solomon Islands, high frequency radios are used to send emails between isolated islands. Villagers can keep in touch with relatives and government officials in the capital Honiara. They can also sell local produce. For example, people in Honiara can order seafood by email from a fisheries business on remote Ulawa Island. Once the order is processed the seafood is sent by air and delivered to the purchaser's home.

WIRING INTO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

For developing countries there are still many problems of access to global communication networks. Government policies and resources, weak infrastructure and poor or slow telephone connections are all factors, as is an unreliable electricity supply.

Use of the Internet is often restricted to email because it's too costly in time and money to try to

Dealers working the phones, Calcutta Stock Exchange, India.

Photo: Mark Henley/Panos Pictures



In Kalimantan, Indonesia, head tribesman Iban Dayak receives training in using a global positioning satellite system to help with community mapping. Even in remote areas people are becoming increasingly familiar with modern technologies. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

look for relevant information on the web. Attempts to download memory intensive content from the Internet, such as graphic rich education and health material, can be almost impossible. Workers in developing countries often measure download times from the Internet by the numbers of cups of coffee they drink while waiting!

These obstacles are being addressed and new approaches are being made to link communities. In some rural provinces of India, wireless technology is being used to transform public buses into mobile transmitters. As buses pass through a village on their regular route, email and public information can be transmitted to the local village computers. Solar power, recycled computers and open source software (that is, non-copyright software) are low-cost options gathering favour.

MAKING ICTS RELEVANT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

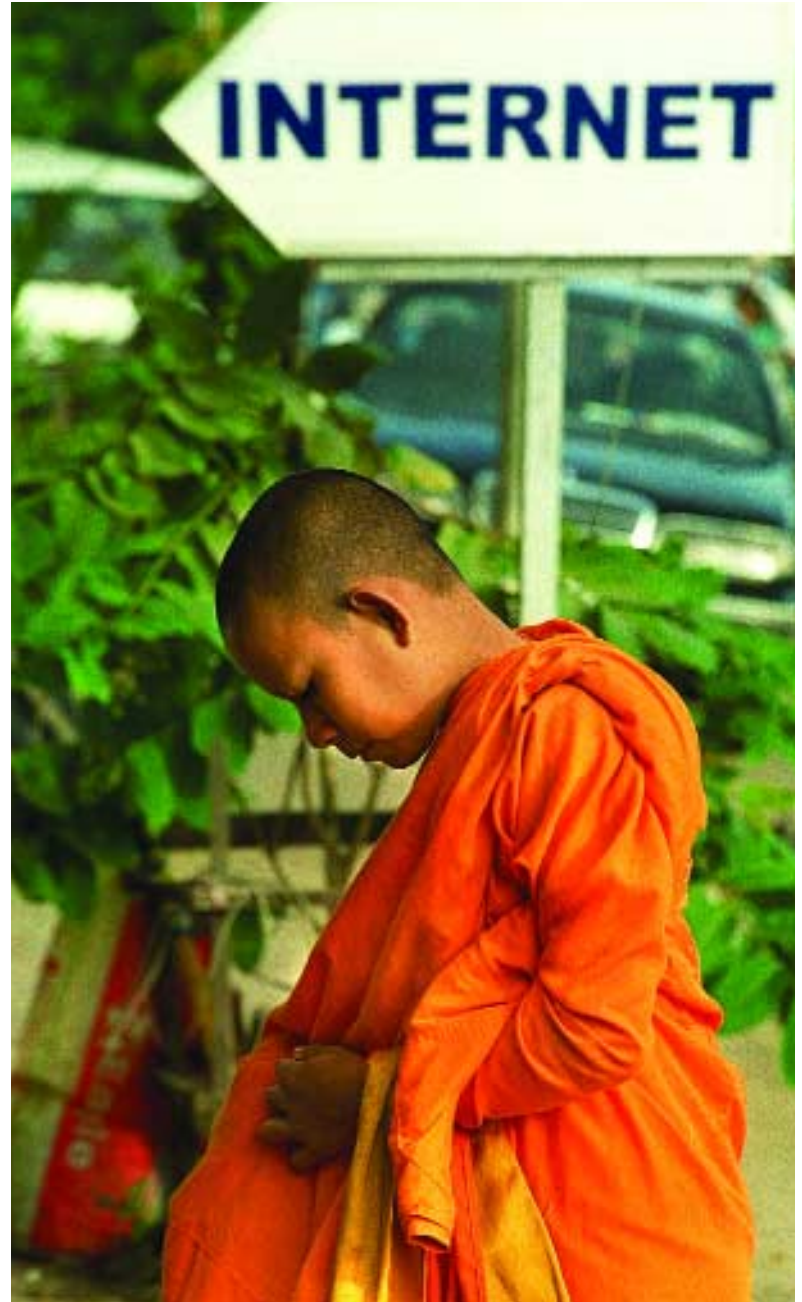
The reasons for adopting ICTs in developing countries tend to contrast sharply with those in high-

income developed countries. Four main differences are:

» The use of computers and the Internet tend to be justified only in terms of their promise and ability to provide direct improvements to living standards.

Slum dwellers in Nairobi, Kenya, developed a rubber sandal made from used tyres but were having difficulty establishing a market. The key to sales in the United States was the launch of the website <www.ecosandals.com>. Without the Internet the business could barely survive but 'With it, we are thriving,' says the project's business manager.

Farmers in the Pacific and South East Asia can prepare against potential agricultural disasters by connecting to PestNet <www.pestnet.org>. This email-based support network, sponsored by AusAID and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia, provides professional advice on pest control for tropical countries. A farmer forwards a description of a pest problem and receives quick advice via email on what to do.



A young monk prays beside an Internet sign in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The online population in the Asia Pacific is predicted to surpass that of the United States within five years. Photo: Philippe Lopez/AFP

» Combinations of technologies are often necessary. In the Himalayas, for example, computers and email contact are used by hundreds of isolated villages to support the use of another technological innovation – solar-powered electricity, which also provides power for lighting, heating and other income-earning activities.

» Few can afford to have exclusive use of an expensive resource, such as a mobile phone or a computer. Instead community access is the norm, usually on a fee for service basis. The preferred approach is to purchase services as needed. Access to telephones, computers and the Internet is through community facilities such as telecentres and Internet cafes.

In Bangladesh, the Grameen micro-credit program allows poor women in remote rural communities to purchase a mobile phone. These communities are usually without communications infrastructure. The women in turn hire the phone to the local community. Calls are usually outgoing – to arrange a wedding or deal with a crisis – and payment is per use. The program is very successful, mainly because it provides a much-needed service. Family members can stay in touch, which also improves village morale and wellbeing.

» The capacity of ICTs to deal with language and literacy issues, particularly the power to offer information in local languages, makes them a powerful tool.

A good illustration is the case of Anastacia Namusonge who is over 70 years old, a grandmother and a farmer in Uganda. Her literacy skills are minimal, but she can confidently turn the 'pages' of a CD-ROM on setting up a small-scale business. The content of the CD-ROM is in her local language, Luganda, and includes text, images and audio messages, and clear instructions.

Tailoring information to meet local needs is a useful service. The Kothmale Community Radio Internet Project in rural Sri Lanka uses a pioneering 'radio-browse' approach. Broadcasters browse the Internet on-air and discuss in local language the significance of the information they find. Listeners can also request information searches on their own questions. Local experts, such as doctors, are invited into the studio as guests to help interpret and explain specialist information.

ICTS CAN IMPROVE LIVES

While making ICTs work effectively in developing countries is a challenge, they remain a vital ingredient in the quest for a truly connected global community. **PI and Richard Curtain**

For more information see

<www.developmentgateway.com.au>

<www.developmentgateway.org>

<www.apdip.net>

<www.itu.int/wsis>

<www.gdln.org>

<www.globalknowledge.org>

THE VIRTUAL COLOMBO PLAN

The Australian Government recognises the risks of an emerging 'digital divide' between developing and developed countries. In partnership with the

World Bank, the Australian Government is funding a \$200 million five-year initiative to promote the effective use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) within the Asia-Pacific region.

An important initiative is the Australian Development Gateway. This Internet portal showcases relevant Australian development

knowledge and expertise on health, education and agriculture – and will soon include governance and water – for communities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia is also working in many forums to promote effective international strategies in the use of ICTs. One such forum is the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

The original Colombo Plan of 1951 emphasised education by bringing people from developing countries to study in Australia. The Virtual Colombo Plan works in the other direction by taking education and knowledge through ICTs to people in developing countries.

For further information visit

<www.developmentgateway.com.au>

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



Labourers from mainland China smuggling live turtles from the Mekong River in Laos. The turtles will end up in dinner pots in Kunming, Yunnan, China. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

A side effect of globalisation is an increase in crime that crosses national borders. Called transnational crime, the growing problem has the potential to undermine Asia-Pacific countries' financial and banking systems. This in turn can reduce foreign investment in developing countries – a serious obstacle for sustainable development.

Transnational crime has many faces. These include people smuggling, money laundering and drug trafficking, crimes that prey on the need and vulnerability of potential victims. The root causes

of this threat to regional security and prosperity are: poverty, economic inequalities, illegal labour market opportunities and conflict. The Australian Government is working with its regional partners to address this serious issue.

In Bali, 28–30 April 2003, Australia and Indonesia hosted the second Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. The conference confirmed the region's commitment to develop comprehensive solutions.

In addition to taking a regional approach to tackling transnational crime, Australia is providing support to countries like Samoa. Since mid-2001 Australia has been providing strategic advice to the Commissioner of the Samoa Police Service, following a request from the Government of Samoa. This advice is helping the police service to strengthen and modernise its processes in order to combat transnational crime.



FACES OF GLOBALISATION



FACING PAGE AND ABOVE: H'mong hill tribe women in Bac Ha, northern Viet Nam near the China border. Even here in this remote mountainous region inhabited by mostly ethnic minorities, the influences of globalisation may be felt. Modern communications such as Internet chat rooms have started to appear. Photo: Suzette Mitchell (facing page) AFP (above)

TOP: On the way to market with fish baskets, Hanoi, Viet Nam. Photo: Jacqui Goldenberg



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[1] Currency trading

Dealing at the 'Dollar Market' in Mongolia. Buyers exchange currencies to purchase local goods. Photo: Mark Henley/Panos Pictures

[2] Transnational crime

Boats loaded with people and goods leave the Chinese border at Yunnan for Myanmar (Burma). The border is porous which allows the passage of all sorts of contraband, from guns to drugs. It's thought over 60 per cent of Myanmar's heroin production passes across this stretch of border. Australia is working with other countries in South East Asia

to combat such illegal activities. Photo: Mark Henley/Panos Pictures

[3] Skill sharing

Swiss-funded technician Christoph Hebeison talks to T. Senthoran about how to operate the DGPS (Digital Global Positioning System), Vavuniya District, Sri Lanka. The DGPS records the location of unexploded ordinances (UXOs). Photo: Will Salter

[4] Health

Interactive CDs (compact disks), used as an adjunct to a medical teaching program, allow trainee surgeons to review each step of a specific technique

as often as necessary. Photo: Robert Simms/ITE Media

[5] Education

Computer technology has made long distance learning an everyday reality. Through the Internet students have a view on the world – such as these in Ningxia Province, China. Photo: Peter Davis

[6] International trade

Workers unloading bags of sugar imported from South Africa for use in a factory in Indonesia manufacturing a domestic soft drink. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

[7] Brand recognition

A real estate agent takes a quick meal break at her local fast food outlet in Bangalore, India. Large fast food chains, offering standardised food, are instantly recognisable all over the world. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

[8] Environmental sustainability

Agricultural workers in the Philippines replanting trees. The practice of felling trees unsustainably has been replaced with a greater commitment to caring for the environment. Photo: David Haigh/AusAID



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GOING GLOBAL

IN REMOTE CHINA



Information and communication technologies (ICTs) in China's education sector – especially in the remote north-west region – are having a big impact. The benefits are long term and aimed at reducing poverty.

Freelance writer and photographer Peter Davis journeyed through Ningxia Province to experience the culture and meet some of the players and beneficiaries of the new technologies.



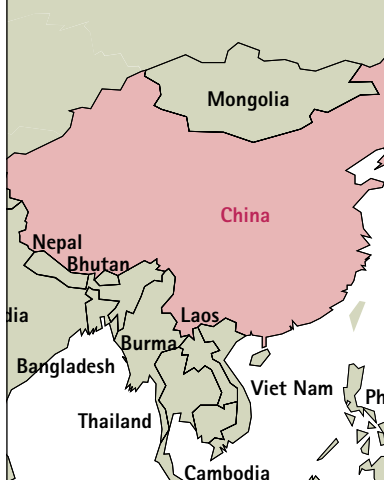
EDUCATING FUTURE DECISION MAKERS

How can a state-of-the-art interactive video conferencing facility at Ningxia University in the relatively remote region of north-west China improve opportunities for ordinary people and lead to poverty reduction?

'It's all about educating decision makers and helping to raise levels of awareness,' says Madam Ma Minxia, Deputy Director of the Ningxia Finance Department. 'To

alleviate poverty you need to work on many fronts. The facility at Ningxia University is designed to help educate decision makers and I believe that education, especially education using information technology, is a crucial step along the path of poverty reduction.'

The decision makers Madam Ma is referring to are the middle-level managers in the government sector who will rise to become department heads responsible for policy making and implementation. 'These people



TO NINGXIA PROVINCE

The 90-minute flight from Beijing to Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Province, traverses some of the most arid and remote country in China. From the air it's possible to make out the *Huang He* (Yellow River) and the *Baotou-Lanzhou* railway. These two lifelines, that snake their way across the province near the Tengger Desert and the Inner Mongolian border, provide some relief to the isolation and harshness.

Yinchuan is a seemingly relaxed city of just over five million people. It has three universities, several large mosques (approximately one third of the population of this region is Islamic) and a wide range of schools and colleges. According to Madam Ma, as recently as five years ago, there was barely enough food in the region. Today the province is enjoying a period of growth and relative prosperity. 'We have put a lot of resources into education, tourism, agriculture and the environment,' Madam Ma told me. 'But it is education that is the key – without that, growth cannot happen.'

THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT LEARNING NETWORK (GDLN) – BRIDGING REMOTENESS

The abundance of construction cranes and new apartments in Yinchuan is clear evidence of economic growth. But it's at Ningxia University where the drive behind the growth can be witnessed. 'Welcome to Global Development Learning Network (GDLN),' said Professor Yanchang Wang, Vice President of Ningxia University. 'This is where we educate the decision makers who will help shape the future of our country.' The large room with its giant video screen, computer link-ups and wall clocks displaying global time zones may seem a

long way from the goat herders on the fringe of the Tengger Desert, but this is the digital age and Ningxia University is at the cutting edge. 'So far this year we have delivered training sessions on issues such as globalisation, poverty alleviation, world trade, environment protection and sustainable development. The fact that we can link up in real time with other cities from Beijing to Washington means that we expose our students to the experts without having to incur the expense of bringing those experts here,' explained Professor Yanchang.

Zhan Hui Ping is a lecturer in economics at Ningxia University and just one of the team of facilitators who works with students using the high-tech facility. He told me, 'We live in a remote part of the world but this facility enables our students to experience something of what lies outside this province. Of course we hope that eventually some of the students will have opportunities to travel not only to other provinces but also to other countries. But with this facility we can save a lot of resources and expose students to a diverse range of ideas and experiences.'

Professor Yanchang was keen to point out that the GDLN is not a substitute for books or for travel. He showed me through the recently-built, five-storey library of the university. 'We have a significant collection of books here and we encourage our students to read as widely as possible,' he said. Later he added that the high-tech conference facility is helping Ningxia bridge the digital divide that exists between the developed and developing world. 'Once that gap is bridged we can accelerate the development process, we can draw on global expertise.'

Ningxia Province may be isolated and economically disadvantaged compared to other areas of China but when it comes to computer technology, the region is leading the way. According to Frank Zhang, Chief Executive Officer of Ningxia Educational Information Technology (a company that began in 2000 and now employs 113 people to develop and implement educational technologies), the current ratio of school students to computers in China is 1 to 120. In Ningxia that ratio is 1 to 60. 'We are working closely with the Government of Ningxia Province to ensure that we meet their target of having 80 per cent of schools in the region connected to wideband Internet in five years time,' he said.

There is no doubt that some of the school students will go on to Ningxia University and will graduate as decision makers helping to shape the future of their region. They will be well equipped to become active participants in the Global Development Learning Network.

FAR LEFT: Cao Jia Bi is a senior technician with the video conference facility at Ningxia University. 'Through this technology we have brought many people together from all over the world,' she says.

MIDDLE: The past and the future exist side by side. A musician outside the 15th century Bao An Temple in Ningxia Province plays haunting tunes on the traditional erhu.

RIGHT: Madam Ma Minxia, Deputy Director of Ningxia Finance Department. 'To alleviate poverty you need to work on many fronts,' she says.

Photos: Peter Davis



need access to experts around the world so they can learn about the way economic growth can reduce poverty,' Madam Ma said. 'And the video conference facility is an efficient way of achieving that.'

I spoke with Madam Ma in Beijing on the eve of her departure for Rome to talk on this very issue of education and poverty reduction. 'It's easy for me to talk about the conference facility,' said Madam Ma, 'but you need to go to Ningxia and see it for yourself, and you need to see how many schools now have computer facilities. Then you can appreciate how, with assistance from the Australian Government and the World Bank, we are undertaking some innovative steps in education and development.'

AFTER THE WAR

With the conflict over in Iraq, the world community now faces the task of rebuilding a nation that has suffered years of neglect under its former leader. Australia is playing a key role in providing assistance.

ABOVE RIGHT: Australia has committed more than \$100 million in relief for the people of Iraq and worked with coalition partners on the reactivation of the Oil for Food Programme. The 100,000 tons of Australian wheat was the first major shipment of food for Iraq following the war. Photo: AusAID

RIGHT: Approaching Baghdad. The view through a cracked windscreen shows a once familiar portrait of Saddam Hussein. Photo: Mathias Heng



In response to the immediate needs of the people of Iraq, the Australian Government has committed more than \$100 million for humanitarian assistance, relief efforts and rehabilitation works.

This assistance is made up of an early contribution of \$17.5 million to international agencies to assist in planning and pre-positioning recovery assistance for the most vulnerable people in Iraq. Another \$38 million has been provided for urgent humanitarian relief operations under the United Nations' Flash Appeal. A further \$45 million has been set aside for further humanitarian requirements and priority reconstruction activities. (See *Facts at a glance* on page 20 for funding allocations.)

This early assistance has contributed to the ability of international organisations like the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to respond quickly to water shortages in a number of Iraqi towns, and for UNICEF to make essential medical supplies available (see page 21 for details).

Australia's support for ICRC and UNICEF is assisting them to provide essential humanitarian supplies to internally displaced people. This support also meets vital water and health needs across Iraq, including in the city of Basra.

Australia will continue to work closely with UN and coalition agencies as well as non-government organisations on humanitarian and reconstruction planning for Iraq. This will include supporting the reconstruction process by offering expert advice, for example, in the field of agriculture.

Australia is also well placed to provide expert advice and support

to an Iraq interim administration. Highly qualified Australian personnel are undertaking key humanitarian planning and coordination roles with international agencies and the United States Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Affairs (ORHA), in locations throughout Iraq, including the headquarters in Baghdad. There are currently nine Australians working in ORHA.

There are also Australian government aid experts on the ground working in planning and coordinating capacities with United Nations (UN) agencies and with non-government organisations.

Years of conflict, economic mismanagement, environmental degradation and UN sanctions have led to the deterioration of Iraq's agricultural productivity, a

heavy reliance on food imports and a population vulnerable to malnutrition.

Australia is committed to playing a central role in revitalising Iraq's agricultural sector and improving food security. Of the total commitment to Iraq of over \$100 million, \$40 million has been allocated to agricultural reconstruction.

The proposed approach at this early stage of agricultural rehabilitation is to focus on targeted interventions to help jump-start agricultural production, while establishing the basis for effective, longer-term reform. A team of senior agricultural advisers is currently working with senior Iraqi officials to identify priorities for assistance.

The senior advisory team is currently implementing a package of assistance to address early



pressing priorities in the agricultural sector in Iraq. Initiatives include support for repairs to the Ministry of Agriculture and a series of quick-impact activities in support of the harvest and planting seasons.

Australia's advisory team is also providing policy advice to assist with longer-term reform efforts to support the transformation of Iraq's centrally planned food and agriculture sector into a modern, efficient and productive free market system. As needs are identified and priorities are established, the senior advisory team will draw on sub-sectoral expertise across a range of sectors.

Areas of likely need include dryland agriculture (cropping and livestock), agricultural economics, irrigation and water resource management, salinity and soil conservation, animal health, grain handling, distribution and

logistics, and institutional reform and policy development.

Australia will continue to work with its partners to identify areas where Australia can make a further meaningful humanitarian contribution to the Iraqi people. LM

For further information

www.aid.gov.au/iraq

For more information on the UN Flash Appeal

www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=3

For more information on ORHA

www.usaid.gov/iraq/about_reconstruction.html

LEFT: Australian wheat was unloaded in Kuwait so that it could be milled into flour and delivered to Iraq under the Oil for Food Programme. Photo: AusAID

ON THE GROUND IN KUWAIT

Lorraine Mulholland, an AusAID officer based in Canberra, was one of the first Australians sent to the Middle East to provide post-conflict humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq. Here is her first-hand account.



Lorraine Mulholland. Photo: AusAID

Like many Australians, I watched blanket media coverage of the war begin in Iraq. Little did I know that within days I'd be in Kuwait as part of the Australian Government contingent providing humanitarian assistance for Iraq.

A small team of AusAID staff was sent to the Middle East to work with coalition partners and international organisations to provide a fast and effective response to the needs of Iraqis following the conflict.

One of our immediate tasks was to bring in two ships carrying 100,000 tons of Australian wheat. We were to work with the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP), which is responsible for delivery of humanitarian food aid in Iraq.

The wheat was purchased by WFP under the Oil for Food

Programme. Milled Australian wheat is a staple delivered through the UN-monitored Public Distribution System. The distribution of food was suspended during the conflict. However, WFP reported that additional food distributions prior to the conflict had allowed Iraqis to stockpile rations in the preceding weeks.

Between missile strikes and air-raid warnings, I worked with Derek Taylor from AusAID's Humanitarian and Emergencies Section to facilitate the arrival of the wheat, which proved to be quite a logistical challenge.

The intention was to bring the ships into Umm Qasr, the only deep-water port in Iraq. From there the ships' cargo could be offloaded into grain silos, and then transported around Iraq for milling and distribution to those in need.

Engineers examining the port determined, however, that after years of neglect the channel was heavily silted. At a minimum, significant dredging was required before the port could open to large commercial shipping.

With WFP estimating that Iraqis had only six to eight weeks of basic food supplies remaining, we needed to find another way to unload the ships, mill the wheat and distribute the flour to maintain the food supply pipeline to Iraq.

One of the two ships was diverted to Kuwait, where the wheat could be milled and prepared for transport into Iraq. After bad weather caused a brief delay, the *Pearl of Fujairah* docked in Shuaiba Port in Kuwait. Here clamshell cranes unloaded 12,500 tons into trucks for transport to grain silos – a rather slow process.

Once the ship was lighter in the water, it sailed to Shwaikh, the main commercial port, where purpose-

built grain ‘vacuators’ (like large vacuum cleaners) were available. The vacuators sucked the wheat from the ship onto conveyor belts feeding directly into grain silos.

It was amazing to see 50,000 tons of wheat – it filled all seven holds of the ship and took more than 10 days to unload.

With the security situation in Iraq remaining unstable, the World Food Programme decided to redirect the second wheat ship to Aqaba in Jordan. This wheat will be milled into flour and transported through Jordan’s western border into central Iraq. My job in Kuwait was done.

Missile attacks notwithstanding, I found it was quite an experience working in Kuwait with UN and other international relief agencies. There is so much work to be done – it is my belief that it will take the world community working together to achieve peace and security and a future for the people of Iraq.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT (AUD)
Initial Commitment	
UN Central Emergency Revolving Fund	\$6,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA)	\$2,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	\$2,000,000
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	\$2,000,000
Australian Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), including CARE Australia and Australian Red Cross	\$2,000,000
Additional programs, personnel	\$2,000,000
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	\$1,500,000
Sub-Total	\$17,500,000
UN FLASH APPEAL COMMITMENT	
UNICEF	\$7,500,000
ICRC	\$7,500,000
Australian NGOs	\$5,000,000
UN agencies responsible for coordinating humanitarian activities and logistical arrangements	\$4,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	\$3,000,000
World Health Organization (WHO)	\$3,000,000
To be allocated following detailed on the ground assessments of emerging critical needs	\$8,000,000
Sub-Total	\$38,000,000
OTHER HUMANITARIAN AND RECONSTRUCTION PRIORITIES	
The bulk of this funding will be used to help revitalise Iraq’s agriculture sector	\$45,000,000
TOTAL	\$100,500,000

CARE IN HOSPITALS



‘Aya came down with the fever first,’ parents Afrah and Alah Hussein explain. ‘She is the eldest, two years old. Then Rosal also became sick.’

Aya has already been in the hospital for nearly a month. Her sister Rosal followed a week later.

Aya and Rosal are battling ‘Black Fever’ or visceral leishmaniasis. ‘Black Fever’, transmitted through sandflies, is one of the chronic diseases endemic in Iraq.

‘We had hoped to treat each child in the hospital for a week and then send them home with prescribed medication for another 21 days,’ says

Dr Quasem, ‘but we have run out of the medicine, Pentosam, to treat the disease, so we are just supporting the patients as best we can, with fluids and food.’

After more than a decade of neglect in Iraq, Aya and Rosal’s story is becoming increasingly familiar. Aya and Rosal sit alongside children as young as three months suffering from acute diarrhoea caused by malnutrition and contaminated water.

CARE is a non-government organisation supported by the Australian Government to carry out humanitarian emergency relief

in Iraq. CARE is providing emergency medical supplies to hospitals as well as basic food supplements.

To help address the water and sanitation crisis, CARE is working to repair water and sanitation systems and is giving out hygiene education kits to patients and their families in order to help keep disease at bay. **Alina Labrada, CARE Australia**

<www.careaustralia.org.au>

LEFT: Alah Hussein and his daughter Rosal receive CARE biscuits in a Baghdad hospital. Photo: CARE Australia

IRAQ CHILDREN'S APPEAL

UNICEF Australia's appeal for Iraq's children, launched on 20 March 2003, has to date raised over \$400,000 from public donations and received \$2 million from the Australian Government to help provide emergency humanitarian aid.

The Australian Government support will provide clean water and sanitation, nutrition and counselling for traumatised children.

UNICEF is the lead United Nations agency for non-food assistance in Iraq. The agency has sent in more than 400 trucks since 29 March 2003, carrying supplies including water, purification tablets and emergency medicines.

UNICEF is continuing to send in more trucks on a daily basis.

'Clean water is one of the most critical needs in Iraq right now and UNICEF has delivered more

than 12 million litres of life-saving water in the past month,' says Gaye Phillips, UNICEF Australia Executive Director.

'These funds raised in Australia will help UNICEF expand our water tankering operation and will help us to provide vital health care and counselling to the many children who have suffered trauma, fear and the loss of loved ones.'

In addition to the \$2 million donated to UNICEF Australia's emergency appeal, the Australian Government has sent a further \$7.5 million direct to UNICEF Iraq to help meet critical water, health and trauma needs.

UNICEF Australia's Iraq Children's Appeal is ongoing. Australians wishing to help can call 1300 134 071.

[<www.unicef.org.au>](http://www.unicef.org.au)

SARS: A GLOBAL THREAT

The recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the Asia-Pacific region appears to be the first severe and easily transmissible new disease to emerge in the 21st century.

As part of a regional response, Australia has contributed \$1.2 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to help prevent and control outbreaks of SARS in the western Pacific region.

The challenge to stop the spread of SARS through effective prevention, infection control and treatment is especially difficult in developing countries that have limited public health infrastructure.

The Australian funds are being used to deploy experts in epidemiology, infection control, virology and communicable disease control, procure medical supplies and equipment and produce training materials in local languages.

Emergency start-up kits of barrier nursing equipment have been purchased by Australia and shipped by WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office to Kiribati, Fiji, Guam, Samoa, Tonga, Brunei, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Laos, the Philippines, Cambodia, Macao and Mongolia.

POWER OF ONE

KOTO is a restaurant and training school in Hanoi. It's also an enterprise that offers a future for former street children and disadvantaged youths.



The idea for KOTO began in 1996 when Australian-Vietnamese man Jimmy Pham returned to his country of birth as a tour guide. His work brought him into contact with children living rough in the streets of Ho Chin Minh City. Before long he was feeding, clothing and caring for 60 homeless children.

They didn't trust him at first – some even conned him, but slowly he earned their respect. He wasn't a social worker nor did he have all the answers – he was just a young man with a big heart who wanted to help.

Three years later and based in Hanoi, Jimmy Pham personally financed a small cafe called KOTO (Know One Teach One – Jimmy's personal philosophy). His aim was to provide disadvantaged youths with a means to earn a living. Before long a number of disadvantaged young people were happy and busy learning hospitality skills that ranged from cooking Western style meals to greeting and serving customers.

In September 2000, a larger KOTO was opened by the Australian Ambassador to Viet Nam, Michael Mann, and KOTO has since accessed a small aid grant that has helped to set up a vocational training centre. It's

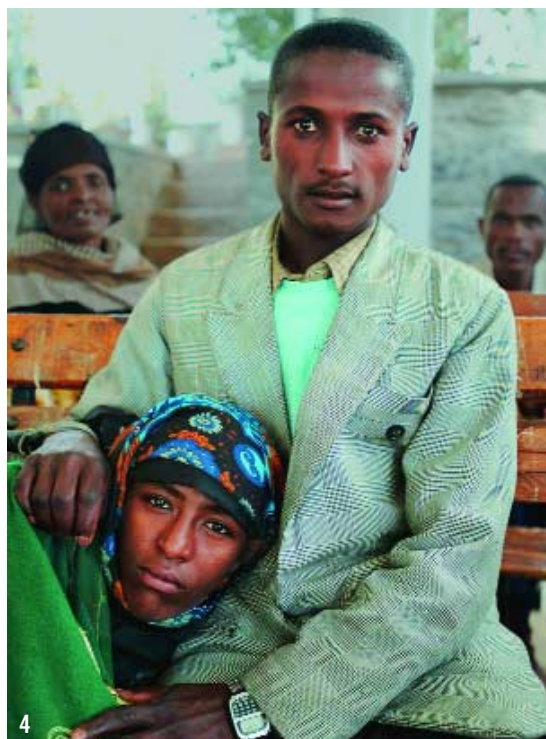
going from strength to strength. Last year for the first time graduates of the Kitchen and Front of House training courses were employed at leading restaurants in Hanoi, including the Hilton and Sofitel Metropole.

There are many people and organisations around the world that donate funds and services to keep KOTO running. The photos on pages 4, 12 and 13 come from an exhibition titled 'An Com Chua?' – a common daily question in Viet Nam meaning, 'Eaten rice today?' The exhibition, held by eight Australian photographers in Melbourne, raised over \$12,000.

'The only thing we all had in common was a love for Viet Nam,' said exhibition organiser and contributing photographer Suzette Mitchell. 'When thinking about the question, we wanted to make sure people could say "yes", and this was our small way of ensuring this answer for a group of former street kids.' Suzette Mitchell

For more information about KOTO contact Jimmy Pham at koto@koto.netnam.vn or see [<www.streetvoices.com.au>](http://www.streetvoices.com.au)

Training class, KOTO. Photo: Kelly Armiger



RESTORING HEALTH AND DIGNITY

The remarkable work at the fistula hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has helped thousands of women reclaim their lives.

[1] Dr Catherine Hamlin in the hospital gardens.

[2] A patient stands in front of the new rural village.

[3] Dr Mulu, the longest serving Ethiopian surgeon in one of the hospital wards.

[4] A newly arrived patient with her husband.

[5] Getenesh – ‘so happy to be well.’

Photos: Shaleece Haas

Earlier this year the newly constructed rural village complex, part of the Addis Ababa fistula hospital, was formally opened. Many people attended the official ceremony including the President of Ethiopia, the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Australia’s Ambassador to Ethiopia.

The new rural village provides a home and supportive community for women suffering incurable fistula problems. Among Ethiopian women fistula injuries are common, and occur in the bladder and rectum as a result of long and obstructed labour in childbirth. Very damaged women are sometimes left permanently incontinent and because of this

are usually ostracised from their communities. The new rural village has been created especially for these women who can’t go home.

‘I had dreamt of one day having a village for these women to live together in community, in some way like the villages they left behind, so that they would in some way feel like citizens of this world again,’ said Dr Catherine Hamlin at the opening of ‘Desta Mender’, the new rural village.

Over 30 years ago the late Dr Reginald Hamlin and his wife, Dr Catherine Hamlin, first became aware of the plight of women suffering from fistulas. Together these two Australians perfected a surgical technique to repair them and through donations were able

to establish a hospital. Since 1974, over 20,000 women have been treated with a high rate of success. The demand for fistula surgery continues to grow.

Since 1993 the Australian Government has provided assistance to the hospital, most recently towards building costs for the new village. In her speech Dr Catherine Hamlin expressed her ‘deep gratitude to the Australian Government for helping us to alleviate the suffering of our beloved patients and to look after them as they deserve.’^{TN}



GETENESH'S STORY

When Getenesh* married at age 16, she pictured a long, happy life ahead of her. She would raise many children and live contentedly in her village with her husband, a childhood sweetheart.

Pregnant with her first child, she returned to her parents' house to give birth. There, she crouched on the floor of her parents' *tukul*, enduring three days of excruciating labour. An old village woman attending her birth pushed down hard on her belly to force the baby out, but still the baby didn't come.

Wait just a minute, the old woman kept saying. But the baby stopped moving inside her, Getenesh said, and then she lost consciousness. Her family carried her to a health centre an hour's walk away from their village in the Oromia region. When Getenesh regained consciousness two days later, she grieved for her baby – but soon she realised that her suffering had just begun.

During her long labour, the constant pressure from the baby's head grinding into her small pelvis had starved the delicate tissues around her vagina, causing a fistula – a small hole between the bladder and vagina.

She noticed that her hospital bed was wet, and that she leaked urine uncontrollably. Horrified, she felt her dream of a large family and happy marriage fading. In its place came the fear of a future life of shame and isolation.

'I didn't know why this happened,' said Getenesh, a slight, mild-mannered girl wearing a brilliant blue headscarf. 'I was so sad, I wanted to kill myself.'

Fortunately, a doctor at the health centre knew about the fistula hospital and told her that she could be cured in Addis Ababa. So Getenesh and her brother travelled to the capital by bus, and arrived at the hospital in a taxi. She was operated on just a few days later.

After three weeks in recovery, she received the happy news that her operation was successful and she was ready to go home.

'I am so happy to be well,' she said, her face transformed by a brilliant smile.

Before dawn on the following morning, wearing a new dress and a big smile, she boarded a bus bound for her village in Oromia. Once again, she said, she dared to hope for happiness in her future.

* Not her real name

Megan Lindlow



AusAID officer Anne Rigby recently returned to Du An County, part of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China after 10 years. She looked forward to seeing signs of progress but what she found exceeded all expectations.

CHINA COUNTY 10 YEARS ON

One of the first Australian Government projects designed to reduce poverty in China began in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China, in the early 1990s.

At this time, Du An County, part of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, was one of China's poorest counties and was closed to all foreigners. Today it's a bustling, open place. Paved roads replace dusty lanes and Internet cafes replace open-air video shops. New shops sell mobile phones and electrical goods.

Progress began in 1990 when the Australian Government, through AusAID, helped fund the building of 25 kilometres of road, two tunnels and a bridge through karst mountains. Since the new road was completed farmers have been able to use motor transport. It means that they can send their produce to local markets faster and more often. This in turn means that they can increase their incomes.

The construction of the Sino-Australia Bridge across the Diaojiang River has encouraged



the building of new government offices, the establishment of local enterprises and more forestry projects to protect surrounding hillsides. The Deputy Governor of Du An County, Lou Haisheng, told me the road and the bridge now connect seven townships and that he is able to visit his colleagues in adjacent counties in a single day – a journey that previously would have taken many.

Construction of concrete, domestic, water tanks have also had a profound effect on the lives of people. Daily walks of two kilometres to collect water from a stream are no longer necessary.

Another regional success is the establishment of the lotus noodle industry. With the support of the AusAID project, noodle makers began producing lotus noodles for restaurants throughout China. While visiting the Lan family in Dongmiao Village, I could see that the original noodle cutter – given by the project in 1992 – was still in use. The family business presently employs two villagers and there are plans to produce lotus noodles for export.

Perhaps the most touching moment of my visit came when I went to the San Lang Primary



School. It was built with materials purchased with the Australian Ambassador to China's discretionary aid funds. Local labour assisted with the construction and, after completion, the local government of Du An County connected electricity.

I was fortunate to catch up with the school's first teacher, Huang Ruming. Although she now teaches in a school in the county's capital, she told me that helping to set up the new school gave her the confidence to upgrade her skills. 'Thanks to the new school, my life changed,' she told me.

It's not often that I've had the chance to visit an AusAID project after 10 years but what a truly uplifting experience it can be – and what a chance to witness the

longer term impact of the Australian Government's aid program. This was a small project but its benefits are obvious, already extending to the next generation of Du An County residents. The opportunity for learning provided by the school, as well as the increase in local incomes, complement the wider developments of the county and have allowed for real progress.

The memory of Australian development assistance is in the hearts of Du An County people. The words embedded on the wall of the new bridge at Lalie read, 'A golden bridge is across the Diaojiang River. The friendship between China and Australia is as deep as the sea.'

[1] The Sino–Australia Friendship Road, as it's locally known, finishes at the small town of Lalie on the banks of the Diaojiang River. Here it meets the Sino–Australia Bridge.

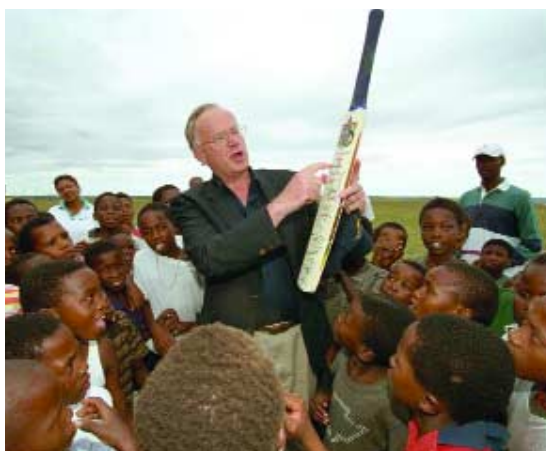
[2] Huang Ruming, the school's first teacher, as she is today.

[3] The San Lang Primary School is located in the heart of the AusAID project area, at the junction of three roads. Children still continue to walk up to three hours each day to get to school. Many live in some of the most isolated villages in China where access is limited to small footpaths weaving through some of the world's most inspiring mountain scenery.

[4] Before the new school was built – teacher Huang Ruming with AusAID officer Anne Rigby and children, c.1990.

[5] The Lan family matriarch, Wei Chuirong, holding a bunch of lotus noodles – a specialty of the region.

Photos: Anne Rigby/AusAid



FUN AND GAMES

Whatever the game and wherever the country, sport can play an important part in development. A child in Laos may be taught the difference between a ball and a landmine while learning a new game. In the Pacific, vines are used as skipping ropes as part of a health program to reduce the incidence of obesity and diabetes.

In any country, sport provides a myriad of benefits. It brings people together and can even engender a sense of national pride. It keeps bodies healthy and souls happy. It can be done with a lot of resources or just a few. It's fun and just about everyone can take part. It can also be used to sell messages that are important to a country's economic and social prosperity. For these reasons, the Australian Government sometimes uses sport in its aid program.

FIJI

In Fiji, sport is a great social leveller. 'It gives kids of all ages and backgrounds skills and forges friendships between people who may not ordinarily meet. It offers positive ways of using spare time and the health benefits are obvious,' says Michelle Roffey, an Australian Youth Ambassador in Suva working with the Fiji Amateur Basketball Federation.

'Part of my work, is to help develop the skills of local basketball

players and coaches so that when I leave, the players will be able to run their own training course.'

There are often fundamental obstacles to providing sporting opportunities. For instance, transport is a big issue for many players. If they don't live within walking distance of a court, it's hard for kids to play at all.

In Fiji, basketball courts are outdoors so when it rains a lot, everything is put on hold. This makes it hard to maintain continuity in training and playing. But it's encouraging that, in some places, groups are raising funds so that they can cover the courts.

At present, Fiji ranks third in the region in basketball after Australia and New Zealand. 'If we

ABOVE LEFT: Australian High Commissioner Ian Wilcock with a cricket bat autographed by the Australian cricket team during a visit to the Active Community Clubs in Mdantsane, near East London, South Africa. The bat is a floating trophy for the top club at the project's annual intercommunity festival. Photo: Alan Eason/*Daily Dispatch*, South Africa
ABOVE: Sports carnival on a wet day on Taveuni Island, Fiji. Photo: Peter Davis

were to win gold at an international event, it would be such a big thing for the sport and would be so good for Fiji in general,' Michelle Roffey says.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Developing a sports curriculum is not easy at the best of times but

when schools are separated by thousands of kilometres of Pacific Ocean, the task is significantly harder.

Sandy Murray, from Australian Volunteers International, is working with the Yap State Education Enterprises Department in the Federated States of Micronesia. His job is to develop a sport and health education curriculum.

He explains, 'For a long time sport has been regarded as something you did outside school hours. It had no place in the education system. School was a place for learning to read, write and to do maths. However, because of the change from a traditional to a Western diet, increasing numbers of people have problems with obesity, diabetes and heart disease. It became apparent there was a need to link sport and health within the education system.'

There are 29 elementary schools in the Federated States of Micronesia stretched out over many hundreds of kilometres.

'Some of the islands are so small we can only get to them by ship. Equipment and facilities on the islands are often scarce so we try to make do with whatever is already available. We often have to improvise. Coconuts become field markers, vines are for skipping ropes and small balls are weaved from coconut leaves.

Within the new sport and health education curriculum, we try to spell out the links between physical activity, good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. In time we hope the overall physical wellbeing of the country will benefit,' Sandy Murray says.

SOUTH AFRICA

In the African township of Mdantsane, near East London, South Africa, a game of netball is underway. The players are young, keen and full of energy. Their enthusiasm spills over onto the netball court. This is new and much more fun than hanging around on the streets in the afternoon with nothing to do.

The girls are members of a new organisation in East London called Active Community Clubs. The clubs are being set up to improve the physical and social wellbeing of whole communities through a range of activities and sports such as netball, rugby union and cricket. So far, they've more than hit the mark. At least 2,000 young people from some of South Africa's poorest communities have already joined up to become team members.

The Active Community Clubs are funded through AusAID and delivered by the Australian Sports Commission as part of its Australia Africa 2006 Sports Development Program. They are keenly supported by local authorities and organisations.

The latest sport to take off is cricket. During February this year 50 volunteer coaches undertook intensive training in the game. They're now passing on their skills to the 650 or so children who readily turn up twice a week.

The clubs are expanding. Older people are becoming involved, either in sport or in other areas, such as setting up sewing circles to make uniforms for the sporting teams, developing aerobic programs or starting up soup kitchens. All good activities for physical health and social wellbeing, and real steps forward in breaking the poverty cycle. ■



Tran Van Ra collects water from the front of his flooded home in Phu Xuan Commune, Viet Nam. Photo: Will Salter

WATER

THE BIG PICTURE

Globally, there are more than one billion people who do not have access to clean water. More than twice that number live without hygienic sanitation and an estimated 10,000 people, the majority children or infants, die each day from water-related illness. Over the past century, the world's population has tripled and water use has increased six-fold. The global demand for water is growing at unsustainable rates.

WATER PROBLEMS

Water problems are frequently caused by inadequate water governance, that is, poor planning and management of water

resources and infrastructure. What is needed is an integrated approach to the management and development of water resources and services. This means balancing competing demands for water.

THE CHALLENGE: HOW IS AUSTRALIA HELPING?

The Australian Government's water aid policy, *Making Every Drop Count: Water and Australian Aid*, looks at ways the aid program can work with partner countries to help address the water challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. The Government has committed an estimated \$94 million for water activities in the 2003-04 financial year. Activities will focus on



strengthening water governance and delivery systems. Broad participation in decision making by end users will also be encouraged.

MAKING A SPLASH: AUSAID AT THE THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

Earlier this year, AusAID representatives Ray Barge and Marcus Howard attended the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan. The forum gave an opportunity for technical experts, government ministers and representatives from financial institutions, the United Nations and non-government organisations to search for

solutions to global water challenges. Young people were also able to offer their perspectives and participate in discussions with other forum members. Outcomes were positive, as Kenzo Hiroki, Vice Secretary General of the Third World Water Forum declared, 'The Third World Water Forum has become a truly "action-oriented" conference.'

With its new policy *Making Every Drop Count: Water and Australian Aid*, Australia is well placed to make a valuable contribution to global efforts to improve sustainable management of water resources and services. Australia will share its expertise in water management, with an emphasis on translating relevant Australian policy and applying managerial, technological and scientific knowledge, to meet regional challenges.

GLOBAL COOPERATION IS IMPORTANT, BECAUSE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES ALONE CANNOT SOLVE THE WORLD'S WATER PROBLEMS.



... AND SOME SMALLER PICTURES

Here's a selection of images produced by children from six schools in New Delhi who took part in a painting competition on the theme of water. Organised by New Delhi Embassy staff to mark World Water Day, the event was judged an outstanding success. In a letter of thanks to the Australian High Commission, Mrs Madhu Chandra, Principal, Birla Vidya Niketan School, wrote, 'The event was extremely well organised and the topic challenging and meaningful.' As for the children's feelings on that matter, let's allow their pictures to do the talking. GE and JD



LAND DEGRADATION: A GLOBAL ISSUE

With support from AusAID, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, the Department of Agriculture Forestry Fisheries Australia and the ATSE Crawford Fund, developing countries were well represented at the National Landcare Conference 'Respecting Values – Working and Learning Together', held in Darwin in May 2003.

In several countries where it's encouraging local initiatives to address land degradation, Landcare is proving invaluable. These countries include the Philippines and a number of African nations, with growing interest in China, East Timor, Indonesia, Fiji and Viet Nam.

'Landcare is a development and environment strategy as well as a farmer-led social movement and Australia is uniquely suited to support international Landcare,' said Dr Dennis Garrity, Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre in Kenya, in his keynote address to the conference.

ABOVE: Contour ploughing in the Philippines using natural vegetation strips – in this case, banana leaves – to form terraces for better erosion control. Photo: World Agroforestry Centre Image Library

GETTING IT RIGHT

George Morrow entered the world of overseas development after 35 years in the information and communication technology (ICT) business, so it's no surprise that he is enthusiastic about the role of ICTs in development. These days he believes that good development practice is the same as good business practice, especially when considering the role of ICTs. George Morrow, who is the Chief Executive Officer of AESOP Business Volunteers, says aid agencies working in the developing world should profit from the lessons already learnt with ICTs in the developed world. Here are his tips.

FIND OUT WHAT THE ULTIMATE BENEFICIARIES REALLY NEED.

Meet real requirements enunciated by the ultimate beneficiaries of the solution. Avoid implementing technology which is searching for a problem. The 'build it and they will come' model has not worked in the developed world so why should it work in developing countries? Understand the real needs of, and engage with, all actors in a developing community – don't impose ICT solutions that donors or development workers think they need.

CONSIDER THE WIDER IMPACT.

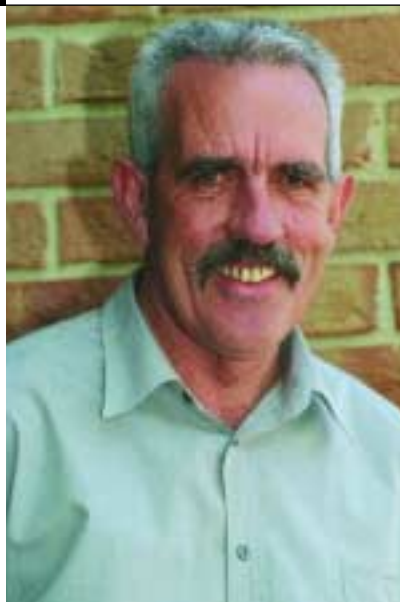
Removing the middleman from a rural product supply chain may benefit the growers but ruin employment opportunities in nearby regional centres. Training the disadvantaged in ICT skills, which won't help them secure jobs, is a well-meaning exercise in futility.

DON'T PREJUDGE ANYTHING ABOUT IT (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY) OR ICT LITERACY.

The business sector across South-East Asia and the Pacific (AESOP's region of operation) is surprisingly well wired. Illiterate people can use well-designed ICT systems and the formal education system is only one channel for knowledge and skills transfer.

BE INNOVATIVE WITH BUSINESS MODELS & ICT APPLICATIONS.

Outside consultants and volunteer advisers often have difficulty discarding familiar business models and solution architectures. The best applications of ICTs in development have done things not even contemplated in developed countries (for example, cell phones which can be rented for a single call usage or information servers mounted on commuter buses).



George Morrow. Photo: AESOP

USE THE MOST APPROPRIATE, NOT JUST THE LATEST, TECHNOLOGY.

NASA spent millions developing a pen which would write in zero gravity. The former USSR simply used a pencil! The take-up rate for telephone connections across the developing world is much higher than the take up for Internet connections. Creating a virtual community using telephones and fax machines might not be as sexy as building an e-commerce website but it could be more successful and cost effective.

ENSURE LOCAL TECHNICAL

SUPPORT. Stories are legion of personal computers lying about uninstalled or broken due to lack of technical support. The United States' Geekcorps uses IT volunteers to strengthen the support capacity of local IT firms. Betting the future of an ICT solution on a poorly-trained local counterpart or a well-meaning (but often absent) volunteer is a risky business.

SOUND BUSINESS PLANNING IS

ESSENTIAL. ICTs are only enablers.

The underlying business plan determines the success and sustainability of any project. Business planning is now a key tool in development. AESOP has recently developed a youths for the future scheme – a business planning and marketing skills course for young entrepreneurs which uses the Internet as a mentoring tool.

LASTLY.

I have no doubt ICTs can and will play a major role in development. The success rate of their application will depend on not having to re-learn past lessons.

AESOP contributes to growth in developing communities through the transfer of knowledge and workplace skills using volunteer expertise. For more information <aesop.org.au>

VIEWPOINT is a forum for readers to express their ideas and perspectives on overseas development issues. Views do not necessarily reflect the ideas and policies of the Australian Government. Readers who would like to contribute should send their articles (not exceeding 500 words) with full contact details to the Editor, *Focus*, Public Affairs Group, AusAID, GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT 2601 or email focus@ausaid.gov.au

EDUCATION



LEARNING BY LETTERS

School students in Sydney are communicating with students in rural Bangladesh as part of the everyday curriculum.

Through the Global Endeavour project launched by Australian educator and development worker Terrence Quinn, students of Tumilia Boys' High School in Tumilia, near Dhaka, are corresponding with students of Marist College, Eastwood, in Sydney.

Babu Gonesh Chandra Das, the headmaster of the Catholic school in Tumilia is enthusiastic about the program. He is pleased to see his students share their everyday lives, particularly their values and culture, with their counterparts in

Sydney. In sharing information they are also learning about themselves.

Take Shimul Sarker, aged 13. He sees his financially poor family as rich in terms of relationships with family and neighbours. He is also proud of the way his community cooperates when natural disasters like floods strike and his school is turned into a shelter for displaced people. Recently his friends in Sydney wrote to him about the droughts and floods that affect Australia.

Abhijit Mollick, 15, a regular writer has found out that he shares with his Australian friend a keen interest in debating. Other students have also discovered mutual interests. And with so much writing practice going on everyone is improving his English skills!

For Australian students the personal contact has injected real-life relevance into theoretical learning about another country and has made all the difference in terms of interest and understanding.

Terrence Quinn's aims are being achieved. He began the communication project to help build relationships between students in rich countries and students in developing countries. He also wanted to build bridges of understanding across cultures.

'While monetary aid to poor countries is important to meet immediate needs, building relationships is important for understanding,' says Terrence Quinn. He also stresses that interpersonal relations are especially important to help people in rich countries become aware of trade and business practices that

prevent people in poor countries from improving their lot.

The scheme has deliberately started with traditional letters – partly because everyone has access to the postal service – but also because, as Terrence Quinn says, 'there is something very personal and immediate about committing thoughts and ideas to paper and posting them.' After the initial experience in Global Endeavour, the students have access to email.

In recognition of the importance of information and communication technology, the Australian Government, through AusAID, has supported Global Endeavour. From letters and emails the program has recently expanded to include the Internet. Students from Tumilia as well as those from Eastwood are connected to the Internet – so both sets of students have equal opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the world.

Source: UCA News, November 2002
<www.ucanews.com>

For more information about Global Endeavour contact
globalendeavour@bigpond.com

TOP: Some of the students from Tumilia Boys' High School, near Dhaka, Bangladesh, involved in the correspondence program with students from Marist College, Eastwood in Sydney. **Photo:** Terrence Quinn/ Global Endeavour
ABOVE: Staff at Tumilia Boys' High School, near Dhaka, Bangladesh, show off the computer equipment paid for through an AusAID support grant. **Photo:** Terrence Quinn/Global Endeavour



AT THE CUTTING EDGE

A set of interactive compact disks (CDs) is offering a new way for trainees and junior surgeons to learn plastic and reconstructive surgical techniques. For developing countries, the Interplast Australia educational resource is of particular value.

ABOVE LEFT: A number of the surgical procedures featured in the series have been filmed in the countries visited by Interplast Australia teams. This helps to make the techniques used in the operations more relevant for local surgeons in local conditions. There is little point in demonstrating a procedure in a high-tech Australian hospital when surgeons in the Asia Pacific do not have access to such facilities or equipment.

ABOVE MIDDLE: The interactive CDs offer a complete teaching program.

ABOVE RIGHT: Some procedures are very difficult to observe, such as cleft palate repair. In this case, the surgeon operates within the confines of a baby's mouth. This space is shared with a variety of instruments so there is little chance to view the intricacies of surgery. To overcome this dilemma when filming, an endoscope with attached camera and light was held close to the lower lip of the patient and pointed towards the operative field. The result is a video with exceptional clarity.

Photos: Robert Simms, ITE Media

The Interplast Australia Surgical Series is a set of interactive CDs that expands the training resources available to plastic and reconstructive surgeons in Asia and the Pacific. Senior Australian specialists demonstrate procedures and narrate the video part of the CDs as they operate. Their surgical techniques are filmed in graphic close-up – not a pretty sight for the layperson but of immense value to trainee surgeons. Animation of exceptional clarity is added to the video to provide a simplified overview of the procedure. This is encoded onto a standard CD-ROM along with a transcript of the narration, anatomy diagrams, a glossary of medical terms and a question and answer section. The result is a simple and attractive teaching aid that can be used as an adjunct to the face-to-face teaching provided by the Australian plastic surgeons.

This is a practical use for information and communications technology in the Asia-Pacific

region. Eventually, when the Internet becomes a viable medium for transmission of quality video, the Interplast Australia Surgical Series will be made available on-line. Until then, interactive CDs that are quick and easy to duplicate and cheap to post will make a significant contribution to surgical education for Australia's regional neighbours.

The producers of the series have taken great care to ensure the end product suits the needs of hospitals and medical schools overseas. The feedback to date has been very positive. 'I have just finished watching the CD on cleft-lip repair and must congratulate all of you for its excellent quality,' said Dr Wame Baravilala, Dean of the Fiji School of Medicine.

'There is no doubt in my mind that CDs of this nature have wide application as a teaching resource in the developing world,' said Dr Glenn Guest, an Australian general surgeon working in East Timor. 'Such a tool would be of great advantage in teaching the doctors in the country who have no speciality training and little experience with certain practical procedures. As these doctors constitute the entire workforce, East Timor alone would greatly benefit from this educational tool.'

With similar responses coming from many others working in the Asia Pacific, the intention now is

to produce more interactive CDs on a variety of other reconstructive surgical procedures. As many as eight will be part of the Interplast Australia Surgical Series. The first three in the pilot, funded by the Australian Government through AusAID, covered the repair of cleft lips and cleft palates. These conditions are prevalent throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Other CDs will feature skin grafting, hand surgery, jaw reconstruction, peripheral nerve surgery and burns.

Interplast Australia has a 20-year history of providing surgical help and training to people of the Asia Pacific. This has involved sending as many as 20 surgical teams a year to countries where assistance is needed – countries like Viet Nam, Fiji and Indonesia. Teams of surgeons demonstrate advanced surgical techniques to their local colleagues, provide additional tuition in the form of lectures and bring promising surgeons to Australia for ongoing training. The long-term aim is for each country to become self-sufficient in as many forms of surgery as possible.

Robert Simms, Interplast Australia Development Committee
<www.interplast.com.au>

VOLUNTEERING

HAVE SKILLS, WILL TRAVEL

The ninth intake of Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development has been officially farewelled.



Ninety-three young Australians have recently travelled to 17 different destinations in the Asia-Pacific region – some to China and Mongolia in the far north and others to East Timor and Papua New Guinea much closer to home. Yet others have made their way to some of the many places that lie in between – places such as Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Laos, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

They have taken with them a diverse mix of practical skills, a thirst for learning and a real desire ‘to make a difference’. Selvi Velayutham, who has previously worked with the ILO (International Labour Organisation) in Geneva and community groups in Sydney is now in Nepal. She is working with some of the nation’s most disadvantaged groups to help improve their access to education and employment, and to help eliminate child labour and discrimination.

Yvonne Wong, who has a degree in law and commerce, is in Samoa. In her position in the Public Trust Office, part of the Ministry of Justice, she is administering wills and estates as well as training co-workers. Her experience with local and district courts in New South Wales has prepared her well. Sonia Esslinger is in Cambodia working with World Vision. Her background in workplace training and adult

education is a great asset in her work to strengthen local development organisations.

Other youth ambassadors are working in the areas of health, the environment, information technologies, social justice, heritage preservation and business – to name but a few. They will all spend between three and 12 months in their designated country, during which time they will exchange skills and knowledge with their local counterparts.

Like those before them, these youth ambassadors will gain an overseas professional development experience and, most importantly, a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and development challenges. **SH**

For further information about the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program contact <www.aid.gov.au/youtham>

TOP: The official group shot – 93 young Australians with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, on the steps of Old Parliament House, Canberra.

MIDDLE: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chris Gallus, with Lester J Duffy (World Bank), Amanda North and Selvi Velayutham.

BOTTOM: The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, chatting with Sonia Esslinger, Yvonne Wong and Nichola Krey. Photos: ID Photographics



INBRIEF

SUPPORT FOR SRI LANKA

Australia will provide \$4.6 million over the next two years for new rehabilitation and peace-building activities in Sri Lanka. The funding will give communities access to clean water, health care, housing and education.

Australia also recently provided \$500,000 to help Sri Lanka recover from its worst floods in more than half a century. The assistance was used for immediate relief and recovery, including the restoration of 40 schools.

SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

A recent Japan–Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in Okinawa has agreed to work towards greater cooperation to combat terrorism in the Asia-Pacific region.

‘It is only in a safe and secure environment that the goals of economic development and prosperity can be achieved,’ the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer said.

A joint action plan will strive for greater security in the Pacific region, a safer and more sustainable environment, improved education and health. It will also work for more robust and sustained trade and economic growth.

AUSTRALIA HELPS CONSERVE CROPS

Australia has joined with other donors in making a multi-year commitment of \$16.5 million to the Global Conservation Trust. The money will provide secure funding for flora gene banks to support food security and agricultural resources in developing countries. Overall, Australia will spend \$1 billion over the next five years on measures to bring about food security in the developing world.

EAST TIMOR CELEBRATES

East Timor’s first anniversary of international recognition of independence was celebrated throughout the country on 20 May 2003. In the capital, Dili, President Xanana Gusmao gave a public address. Other special events included a street parade, traditional dancing, photo displays and sporting competitions.

Independence was celebrated in East Timor on 20 May 2003 in a variety of ways, including a street parade in the capital Dili. Photo: Jo Elsom/AusAID

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR DEREK EDWARD TRIBE, AO, OBE
23.9.26–19.4.03



The recent passing of Derek Tribe will be keenly felt by the international agricultural research and development community. As the first Executive Director of the Crawford Fund, he wrote and lobbied passionately on the theme ‘Doing Well by Doing Good’. Professor Tribe led the way in discussing the role of international agricultural research in alleviating poverty and generating food security as a primary means leading to greater equality and a better world for all.

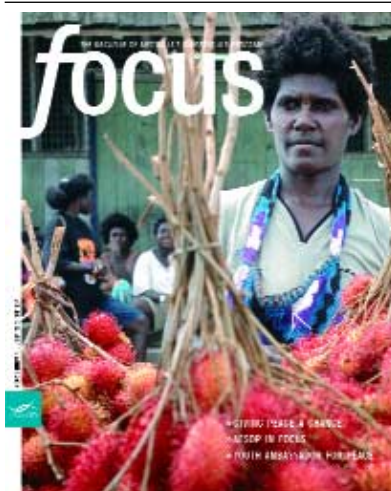
COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2003

Each year AusAID is involved in community events around the country. At these events everyone has an opportunity to learn how Australia’s overseas aid program is making a difference in developing countries.

Visit the AusAID display at the community event in your area. AusAID representatives are available to answer your questions about the aid program. Returned Australian youth ambassadors and volunteers are also on hand to speak about their first-hand experiences working in developing countries.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	STATE
30 Jun–2 Jul	TownsvilleShow	Townsville	QLD
10–12 Jul	Ag Grow	Emerald	QLD
24–26 Jul	Royal Darwin Show	Darwin	NT
9 Aug	Spinifex Spree	Port Hedland	WA
15–16 Aug	Shinju Matsuri	Broome	WA
19–21 Aug	Gunnedah Ag-Quip	Gunnedah	NSW
26–28 Aug	Dowerin Field Days	Dowerin	WA
29 Aug–5 Sep	Royal Adelaide Show	Adelaide	SA
19–29 Sep	Royal Melbourne Show	Melbourne	VIC
27 Sep–05 Oct	Royal Perth Show	Perth	WA
10–12 Oct	Australian National Field Days	Orange	NSW
16–18 Oct	Mildura Show	Mildura	VIC
23–26 Oct	Royal Hobart Show	Hobart	TAS
8–10 Nov	Ballarat Show	Ballarat	VIC

GLOBALEDUCATION



Teachers should contact AusAID for professional development in global education tel: (02) 6206 4969

IMAGINING THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE

In its 20-year reunion, the Class of '83 reflects on the past two decades – the women's movement, the computer revolution, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Asian Economic Crisis, the arrival of the mobile phone, easy and affordable travel, September 11 – events that changed the world with considerable force and tightened links between countries.

Most people cannot picture what the Class of 2023 will reflect upon. However, it's known that if present trends continue, countries will become even more interdependent and people's lives will become more intertwined.

One of the words used to describe this increasing interdependence is 'globalisation' and today's teachers face the challenge of preparing students for a global society.

Computer technology has made the world a smaller place. An idea that once would have taken years to spread, now travels the world in

seconds. Young people in countries rich in information technology are no longer limited by their local communities. They have access to the world through the Internet. In time, as people in developing countries gain greater access to computers, the spread and speed of information will increase even further.

Global education challenges teachers and students to imagine the world of the future and not to simply accept today's definitions and descriptions. It challenges people to understand more directly how others think and why they act as they do, to understand the processes that shape the world.

The role of the global educator is not just to help students learn about and understand globalisation, but to become active global citizens actually building those futures and shaping globalisation.

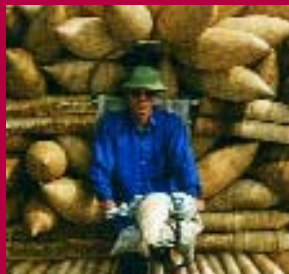
If you are a teacher interested in understanding more about teaching with a global perspective contact AusAID for a copy of

Global Perspectives: A Statement on Global Education for Australian Schools. The publication aims to help students think critically about ways to describe and understand the world, and to empathise with the world views of people from other cultures. AB



AusAID funds professional development for teachers in global education or teaching with a global perspective. For details in your State or Territory go to <http://globaled.ausaid.gov.au/devcentr-e-addresses.html> or phone Canberra (02) 6206 4969.

New Globaled website coming soon



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