

focus

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AID — WHO NEEDS IT?

THE WHITE PAPER WILL ENSURE THE AID PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE EFFECTIVE AND RELEVANT AS IT EXPANDS.



FROM THE MINISTER

As Australians we can be proud of our aid program. From disaster relief efforts in Aceh and Pakistan, to re-establishing law and order in Solomon Islands and reducing maternal mortality rates in Papua New Guinea, Australia's aid program is making fundamental improvements in people's lives.

But we will not rest on our laurels.

The White Paper reaffirms many of the current aid program's directions. But it also charts a change in emphasis and approach in some important areas.

Over the next few years, as we see the aid program likely to double, it is imperative our strategic policy directions are clear. The White Paper, entitled *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*, sets out a comprehensive plan for the next 10 years.

The future is squarely about building on strengths and ensuring a substantially increased aid budget is managed effectively. It is, after all, a reasonable expectation that in delivering greater volumes of aid, the impact should be greater too.

We will continue to concentrate on reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth in the Asia Pacific. Promoting sound governance and stability will be crucial but so too will be investing in people, particularly in terms of education and better health services. We will work towards getting more children into schools, for longer and for a better quality education.

I am pleased, for example, the Australian Government is providing nearly \$1.4 billion over the next five years to double the number of education awards for the Asia-Pacific region. A new package known as 'Australian Scholarships' will offer over 19,000 new scholarships over five years from 1 July 2006. This initiative revives the spirit of the Colombo Plan which brought so many benefits to the Asia Pacific in terms of common purpose and understanding. Such a large investment in education will renew intellectual and social ties between Australia and the region, promote leadership and go a long way in building people-to-people and institution-to-institution links between our countries.

The White Paper is the result of a successful and exhaustive process. Meetings were held across the country with the Australian public. I am particularly gratified by the participation levels at the open forums conducted by AusAID in each state capital.

Discussions also took place with aid specialists from around the region and international counterparts. Since early 2005, development experts and people interested in the aid program have generously shared their knowledge and views.

These meetings, AusAID's own experience and a coordinated whole-of-government engagement have informed the White Paper.

In international circles we have an enviable reputation for responsiveness, pragmatism and flexibility. We will build on that. Australia has a unique opportunity to influence the regional and broader agenda over the next few years through a number of key gatherings. We are, for example, chairing the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in 2006, hosting

APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) in 2007 and participating in the East Asia Summit.

Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability outlines an integrated and coordinated response to complex regional development challenges. Through the aid program, I look forward to strengthening partnerships with our neighbours in the Asia Pacific. By working together we have a far better chance of securing a peaceful and prosperous future for all.

Alexander Downer
Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer (left), greets his Japanese counterpart, Taro Aso, before their bilateral ministerial meeting in Sydney. Photo: Torsten Blackwood/AP

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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 2005–06 Australia plans to spend almost \$2.491 billion on development assistance. The aid program focuses on promoting regional peace, stability and economic development. Countries with whom Australia is working include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu (the Pacific region); Indonesia, East Timor, Vietnam, 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: Pakistan. Earthquake survivor, Balakot. Photo: Tomás Munita/AP

IN BRIEF

NEW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY



Teresa Gambaro is the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer. She was appointed to the position vacated by Bruce Billson in February 2006.

Ms Gambaro is from the electorate of Petrie in the outer northern suburbs of Brisbane. She has been in the Federal Parliament for 10 years. As well as assisting in the aid and foreign affairs portfolio, Ms Gambaro takes on the mantle of Australia's Special Representative on Mine Action.

Landmines and other forms of explosive remnants of war continue to cause devastation to individuals and affected communities. Australia is one of the original signatories of the 1997 Mine Ban Convention and will preside over an international meeting of countries party to the Mine Ban Convention in Geneva later this year.

'I am proud of Australia's record in helping countries like Cambodia reduce landmine casualty rates. By supporting clearance of unexploded ordnance, raising awareness and providing

assistance to survivors, we are helping people build new lives for themselves. We are also making cleared land productive again,' says Ms Gambaro.

As a Queenslander, the new Parliamentary Secretary has been particularly shocked by the damage caused by Cyclone Larry. 'Seeing such terrible devastation makes me appreciate the complexity of emergency and reconstruction phases in disaster responses. People living in developing countries are not able to call on the same level of resources we can and consequently require assistance from outside. Time and again, Australia has responded readily and generously to such needs.'

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Teresa Gambaro (*top of table*), at the release of the latest report on post tsunami reconstruction progress, Parliament House, Canberra. The 12-month report released by ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) outlines the performance of the 30 Australian non-government aid agencies engaged in the work. Photo: AUSPIC

FIELD TRIP TO BURMA



A team from AusAID has recently returned from a field trip to the remote Wa region of northern Shan State, Burma. Vulnerable families, many of whom are from ethnic minority groups, are receiving much needed food assistance through food for work, food for education, and food for training activities. AusAID supports these activities under the World Food Programme's Emergency Food Assistance to Vulnerable Families Program.



ABOVE: AusAID's Kathryn Bennett (*right*) helps out at a rice distribution ceremony in Yong Prim Village. Food is given to the village children as part of a food for education activity which means they are able to attend school rather than work in the fields all day. School enrolment in this village has increased by 55 per cent since May 2005 as a result of this support. Photo: AusAID

TOP: Kachin people from Nar Tee Village attend a food for training workshop. These villagers are learning about 'sloping agricultural land technology', which is a new method of cultivating food crops in less fertile upland areas. Villagers experience chronic food shortages through large parts of the year. Photo: AusAID



Author, host of 'Big Brother' and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Gretel Killeen writes in *Viewpoint* how education is a way out of the degrading misery of poverty see page 29.

PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Two powerful new partnerships will help Australia's efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Australian Government and the William J. Clinton Foundation have joined forces, while the Government and the Lowy Institute for International Policy have also formed an alliance. The latter has led to the formation of an Australian business coalition on HIV/AIDS.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, and former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will provide \$25 million from Australia over four years. This figure will be complemented by a similar amount from the Clinton Foundation.

Initially, the partnership will fund activities in three countries – Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and China. The Clinton

Foundation and AusAID will work together with public health authorities to scale-up treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS. This will include availability of antiretroviral drugs, improving laboratory and testing infrastructure, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems.

Mr Downer also officially launched the Asia-Pacific Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS. This initiative, which has evolved from a partnership between the Australian Government and the Lowy Institute for International Policy, recognises the long-term threat that HIV/AIDS poses for Australian business.

The United Nations estimates more than eight million people in the Asia-Pacific region are living with HIV and that this figure will reach 20 million by 2010 – unless action is taken. A joint United Nations–Asian Development Bank



study puts economic losses from HIV/AIDS in the Asia Pacific in 2001 at about \$10 billion and projects annual financial losses of up to \$24 billion by 2010.

The Government's partnership with the Clinton Foundation, as well as its efforts to enlist the expertise of Australia's corporate sector, has resulted in a major

acceleration of the Australian response to the spread of HIV in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, with President Clinton at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, Sydney. Photo: Getty Images

TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR PACIFIC

At the Pacific Islands Forum in late 2005, the Prime Minister, John Howard, announced in-principle support for the establishment of an Australian technical college for the Pacific. A major study is underway to take forward the Prime Minister's proposal.

The college concept is aimed at achieving two goals. The first is to increase the number of skilled Pacific island graduates. The second is to raise the quality of training to match Australian

standards in vocational and technical education.

The college may have a network of campuses in various Pacific nations with its headquarters in one of the most populated. If the idea comes off and quality training is taken up in the right sectors, Pacific island economies stand to gain. A larger, better skilled workforce will contribute to economic growth. Further, graduates will benefit from improved employment opportunities not only at home

– they'll also be able to compete in an increasingly international labour market.

The first phase of the study will be finalised shortly. It will provide recommendations on preferred locations for the college, the various sorts of training which should be offered, and how the college may best operate. A subsequent detailed design of the college is expected to be completed before the next Pacific Islands Forum meeting in late 2006.

ABOUT FOCUS

Focus magazine is published three times a year. Each issue takes a different theme and this issue (May to August 2006: vol 21 no 2) looks at the White Paper on aid with special reference to education and vocational and technical skills training. The theme for the next issue (September to December 2006: vol 21 no 3) is 'rural communities'.

Focus distribution is 50,000 copies. It is also available on-line at www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/focus



IN THE ASIA PACIFIC OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS 500 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LIFTED OUT OF EXTREME POVERTY – YET THE REGION REMAINS POOR. SOME 700 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE ON LESS THAN \$1 A DAY AND 1.9 BILLION ON LESS THAN \$2 A DAY, INCLUDING HALF THE POPULATION OF INDONESIA.

THE ASIA PACIFIC IS ALSO PRONE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND IS VULNERABLE TO HEALTH THREATS – HIV/AIDS LOOMS LARGE AND EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES, SUCH AS BIRD FLU, ARE POISED TO CAUSE CATASTROPHIC HARM. ALARM OVER THE RATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION CONTINUES TO RISE.

FOR AUSTRALIA'S AID PROGRAM THE QUESTION IS NOT 'WHO NEEDS AID?' BUT 'WHO'S MOST IN NEED AND WHAT FORM SHOULD AID TAKE?'

AID — WHO NEEDS IT?

Papua New Guinea. Carrying a heavy load, Mount Hagen markets, Western Highlands. Life expectancy in Papua New Guinea is only 56 years.
Photo: Rocky Roe

THE PLAN

FOR THE FUTURE — THE WHITE PAPER

Over the next 10 years the aid program will operate in very different circumstances. The exact nature of change is impossible to predict but there's no question it will be immense. The aid program must be prepared.

Looking back over the past 20 years the Asia Pacific has achieved impressive economic growth. The number of people living in extreme poverty has fallen drastically. Yet, despite gains, there remain grave threats to stability and prosperity.

To some the path to progress is unending and strewn with obstacles ever more confounding. It sometimes appears development targets are elusive.

Currently, global alarm grows over entrenched poverty, the potential spread of infectious diseases, terrorism and environmental degradation. Conflict hotspots, people trafficking and chronic unemployment are also issues of serious concern.

In such a climate, it's not surprising that across the board aid levels are expected to increase from around US\$50 billion in the 1990s to US\$130 billion in 2010. This represents an enormous international rise. It also reflects a



growing realisation that reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development are absolute global imperatives. And commitment to this course is not only a humanitarian obligation – it's in the clear interest of all.

Australia is particularly mindful of its role as a responsible member of the global community. Calls for international emergency relief will be answered as

promptly and as generously in the future as they always have in the past (See *Emergency Aid* page 10 and *Humanitarian and Disaster Relief* page 24).

But as a matter of pragmatism and logic Australia will continue to concentrate its aid effort in its own backyard where need is high and where it can reasonably expect to do the most good. Australia has formed close economic,

political and security ties across Asia and the Pacific. Building on its good relationships, Australia will take an energetic approach to future progress. It will, with other initiatives, help formulate robust policies of cooperation among nations of the Asia Pacific to secure long-term prosperity.

RIGHT: Solomon Islands. Teaching civics in Aruligo. Educated and informed citizens will not tolerate inept governments or corrupt practices. They will hold accountable those in political and bureaucratic power.
Photo: Lorrie Graham



ABOVE: Solomon Islands. Men at work – bringing in a good catch. Promoting regional economic growth is one of the key challenges of the aid program.
Photo: Lorrie Graham

WHITE PAPER

WHAT IS A WHITE PAPER?

A White Paper is an official statement of policy by a national government. It's called a White Paper because it was originally bound in white.

WHY NOW A WHITE PAPER ON AID?

It's timely. For the aid program to remain strong, relevant and accommodating of policy shifts it must, every so often, come under scrutiny. The last in-depth examination was in 1997 with *One Clear Objective: Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Development*, known as the Simons Review. It was followed by the Australian Government's policy statement *Better Aid for a Better Future*.

Annual statements to Parliament – for example, 2002 *Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity* and 2005 *Australian Aid: An Integrated Approach* have provided regular updates on aid policy directions. Over time these annual statements have

outlined how the aid program has continually evolved in order to respond effectively to a rapidly changing regional environment.

Australia's aid program has grown in size and effectiveness and has an international reputation for flexibility, pragmatism and responsiveness, but there's no room for complacency. In light of world developments, particularly those in the Asia Pacific, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, has judged the time is right for a new strategic framework. This is the first ever White Paper on Australia's aid program and it will guide the direction and delivery of the country's overseas aid over the next 10 years.

PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

A White Paper on Australia's aid program gained further significance when the Prime Minister, John Howard, announced in September 2005,

THE PURPOSE OF THE WHITE PAPER IS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE AID ACTIVITIES.

a dramatically increased aid budget. The Prime Minister stated Australia's aid allocation would increase from the present \$2.491 billion to around \$4 billion annually by 2010, subject to the 'effectiveness of the application of additional resources' and 'conditional on strengthened governance and reduced corruption in recipient countries'.

The White Paper describes how the Australian Government will approach the doubling of the aid budget, how and where it will spend its increased resources, and how it will safeguard the effectiveness of its investment.

NEW LOOK AID

Australia's aid program is strong and relevant. At various levels, from government to grassroots, and in different contexts, AusAID manages and implements a number of major aid activities. These programs unquestionably help to improve the lives of many thousands of people.

At one end of the scale the aid program is making important contributions in microstates such as Tuvalu. At the other, it's hard at work in Indonesia, a country of immense diversity, a new democracy and home to the world's fourth largest population.

As a 'professional organisation dedicated to managing a complex and difficult task', is it really necessary for AusAID to make changes to the way it delivers aid? What are the policy implications of an expanded program?

The White Paper presents a not-to-be-missed opportunity to reshape and reorientate the aid effort. Without needing to call for sharp departures from present activities and areas of interest, it is, however, an excellent chance to adjust approaches and emphasis.

The plan for the future is about building on current strengths. For example, the aid program will preserve its flexibility as a predominantly grants program as well as retain its facility for quick and finely-tuned responsiveness.

In coming years it's anticipated Australia will work more closely with partner governments, with other Australian Government agencies and with private and other non-state bodies in the region. For example, AusAID is working in partnership with seven Australian church-based non-government organisations and their partner churches in Papua New Guinea. The church there

has a long history and 99 per cent of Papua New Guineans identify as Christians. Working with churches in Papua New Guinea allows AusAID to reach people at a community level through established networks.

Over time and as robust capacity is built, AusAID will move away from implementing activities directly. Instead, it will take a more supporting role so development partners can take the lead. Closer coordination with other donors and multilateral development agencies, such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, as well as other bilateral donors like New Zealand and the United Kingdom, will reduce the number of separate aid projects. A more united approach will be more efficient. Most importantly, the burden of coordinating aid will be borne by donors rather than administrative systems of developing countries already under stress.

There is little doubt AusAID is well placed to deliver an effective aid program over the next 10 years. Staff numbers in the field have doubled in the past two years, systems have been improved, and more recently internal skills have been upgraded with an expanded panel of development experts and advisers within AusAID.

The White Paper concentrates on four core and mutually reinforcing themes which will inform aid program development:

» **Accelerating economic growth:** There is no task more important than reducing poverty through economic growth.

To make this happen, measures are proposed that will generate immediate economic growth in the short term and institutional



AIM OF AID

The objective of Australia's aid program is 'to assist developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest'.

Contrary to the understanding of some, Australia's 'national interest' and 'poverty reduction' are not two separate agendas for the aid program. Rather, they complement each other.

An effective and well-targeted aid program, focusing on the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development, is clearly in the national interest.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer

For a number of reasons, Australia will continue to concentrate its aid efforts in its local area – the Asia Pacific. Since Australian aid can't be all things to all people, an Asia-Pacific scope ensures resources are not spread too thinly.

Over the years, Australia has developed strong people-to-people links across the region and shares with its neighbours an interest in promoting a stable and prosperous region. Australia is also keenly aware of the magnitude and diversity of development challenges that lie ahead. Furthermore, Australia's emphasis on the Asia Pacific complements a broader international aid donor focus on Africa.



IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT THE AID PROGRAM MUST REMAIN SELECTIVE IF IT IS TO MAXIMISE ITS IMPACT. IT CANNOT BE ALL THINGS TO ALL COUNTRIES, OR EVEN TO ONE COUNTRY.



FAR LEFT: Solomon Islands. Buying and selling at one of Honiara's busy market-places. Thriving markets are a vital part of community life. Photo: Lorrie Graham

LEFT: Vanuatu. Learning electrical wiring. Under the Australian Government's equity scholarships women at the Vanuatu Institute of Technology have a chance to learn a trade and become part of the productive workforce. Photo: Vanuatu Institute of Technology

BELOW: Indonesia. Loading containers on to a ship at Tanjung Priok. Stimulating trade and investment in the Asia Pacific is a priority for regional development and future prosperity. Photo: Mark Henley/Panos Pictures



– or governance – reform over the longer term. Such a mix is likely to work best as AusAID's experience shows growth can't just be aligned to improving institutional quality. The fact is institutional reforms take a long time to achieve and growth itself has proved to be, in country after country, a powerful force for governance reform.

» **Fostering functioning and effective states:** The provision of essential services to a nation's population – such as health, education and law and order – relies on the effective functioning of its core institutions. The ability to run a national budget competently and with due process is a requisite for a stable economy. Sound and open financial systems are also necessary to attract foreign investment to drive growth. For these reasons AusAID is dedicating sizable resources to helping its neighbours function fully as independent states. Ways include bolstering leadership and improving nation-building efforts.

EMERGENCY AID



Managing and responding to natural disasters is at the heart of Australia's aid program and any development planning scenario.

Australians possess strong humanitarian values and a deeply held tradition of helping those less fortunate than themselves. This is borne out by public opinion surveys which consistently return clear support for the aid program.

Over recent years natural disasters of extraordinary severity and unusual frequency have afflicted the Asia Pacific. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and subsequent earthquakes killed more than 275,000 people and caused up to US\$14 billion damage.

THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF WILL NOT DIMINISH OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

The earthquake in Pakistan in October last year caused 73,000 deaths and 3.3 million people were suddenly homeless. The cost of the international aid effort remains unquantified. The landslide in the southern Philippines which submerged an entire township was likely triggered by heavier than usual rainfall.

China and Bangladesh periodically suffer increasingly severe flooding. Papua New Guinea is subject to volcanic eruptions.

When Manam erupted in late 2004, up to 10,000 people lost their homes. Australia provided support for evacuees through a number of non-government organisations. Virtually every summer a devastating series of cyclones sweeps across the Pacific. With global warming, their frequency and intensity are likely to increase.

Pakistan. Ten-year-old Faisal from Makniat Village is treated for an infection and jaw fracture at an army medical post following the recent earthquake. About 90 per cent of homesteads in the remote valley where Faisal lives were left uninhabitable. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

» Investing in people:

Considerable resources are to be devoted to building the region's health and education systems. Activities aimed at tackling specific diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria need to be backed up by functioning health systems.

Communities that suffer poor health and are uneducated stand very little chance of either joining the productive workforce or breaking free of poverty. Among many initiatives AusAID is investing more in vocational and technical skills training and expanding its scholarships programs (see *Investing in People* page 20).

» Promoting regional stability and cooperation:

AusAID is promoting regional understanding of, and response to, transboundary threats to security and development.

These are best addressed through regional networks and cooperation. Greater integration will also help develop streamlined governance options which in turn will help the region capitalise on opportunities for boosting trade and growth likely to emerge over the next 10 years.

With increased resources Australians can look forward to a more substantial yet tighter aid program. They may be assured AusAID has an antenna fixed not only to changing times but also to the urgent needs of the nations of the Asia Pacific. The aid program will be well prepared to deliver targeted, responsible and clear-sighted aid.

For the full text of the White Paper, *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*, see <www.ausaid.gov.au>



ABOVE: Nepal. Carrying water amid urban degradation in Kathmandu. There's an urgent need for infrastructure renewal in many areas around the Asia Pacific. Photo: Marc Schlossman/Panos Pictures

CORRUPTION



The aid program has worked hard to stamp out corruption. More than a third of Australia's aid budget (\$885 million in 2005–06) is devoted to governance programs. Most are specifically designed to improve accountability and transparency in partner government administrative systems.

There is a widespread perception that 'because of corruption, foreign assistance to developing countries is mostly wasted'. This is not the case, but it is true corrupt practices hold back development and prevent those most in need from receiving aid. It's a fact, corruption costs lives.

For this reason AusAID is concentrating resources on building better administrative systems.

Over the next 10 years anti-corruption initiatives will be incorporated into all program activities. AusAID is also helping to strengthen systems for law and order, supporting sound economic and fiscal management by governments, and increasing demand for better accountability within countries. These initiatives will complement regional and global efforts by other aid donors in the anti-corruption field.

Indonesia. All above board. Money changing hands at a local market.
Photo: Mark Henley/Panos Pictures

LEARNING NEW WAYS

INDONESIA: LAPIS (Learning Assistance Program for Islamic Schools) emphasises the importance of first building relationships – that is, before rolling out aid program activities.

The complexity of the problems on the ground can sometimes be so intense it can jeopardise aid efforts. To ensure activities are relevant and well targeted under the future aid program, much more attention will be paid to understanding underlying issues – political, cultural and logistical – and building crucial relationships.

A good example of this new approach is LAPIS (Learning Assistance Program for Islamic Schools) in Indonesia.

The objective of LAPIS is at a macro level – to enhance the quality of Islamic education – while its method is to overcome a range of impediments to achieving this development.

Some background. Islamic schools in Indonesia provide education to about 15 per cent of school age children (8.5 million students). Enrolments are growing, particularly for females and from poorer sections of the community. But the quality of teaching is low primarily because teachers are untrained and badly paid. Facilities are also basic and resources scarce.

Since it began in mid-2004, LAPIS has set about building relationships and finding out as much as it can about Indonesian culture and ways. It has also invested in short-term pilot activities in 12 locations and is now developing an assistance package that includes improving infrastructure and upgrading teacher skills.



By building rapport and gathering knowledge at the outset LAPIS is setting the example in new approaches. More importantly, it's proving its value with Islamic communities and senior figures. This is confirmed by Asyumadi Azra, Rector of the State Islamic University of Jakarta, 'Some may suspect Australia has a secularisation

interest. I can assure you this is not so. They work in genuine partnership with Islamic education and civil society organisations such as us, and genuinely heed our advice and respond to real needs.'

Indonesia. Waiting for lessons to begin. Photo: Australian Volunteers International (AVI)

A LEADER IN EDUCATION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Joseph Pagelio is the newly appointed Secretary of the National Department of Education. He's a former teacher and principal and has a doctorate in education from Queensland's University of Technology. With such a background Dr Pagelio is well qualified to lead his country's education reform.

Many children in Papua New Guinea either do not enter school or drop out before they matriculate. In fact, only half of all children complete five years of primary school.

Joseph Pagelio's education record is very much an exception. He not only finished secondary school, he graduated from Goroka Teachers' College, taught for several years in high schools and became a principal. He then joined the Public Service. Through dint of hard work and further study he has risen to the top job in the National Department of Education.

But like many of his fellow countrymen, he's long been worried about poor school retention rates, especially for girls. At last the tide seems to be turning. Benefits of a national education reform program introduced in 1993 are beginning to show. 'More and more children in Papua New Guinea are receiving at least six years of basic education and, increasingly, more teachers are being trained throughout the country,' says Dr Pagelio. 'Progress may seem slow but you must remember we started in 1993 from a very low base.'

Dr Pagelio's attention is also turning to adolescents and their needs. He's keen, for example, to expand programs offered by vocational and technical institutions which teach 'life-skills'. 'These bodies offer an education that

is probably more relevant to the majority of Papua New Guineans who live outside urban areas,' says Dr Pagelio. 'These people often don't have the opportunity to enter the formal workforce.'



Change is already underway. 'The curriculum used to be based on standard subjects taught in the classroom. Now it's becoming more student-based. In some schools we have introduced, for instance, personal development and technology courses which we plan to take to schools throughout the country.'

These courses teach young people about living – not just making a living. They may teach subjects like basic computer

literacy but they can also teach practical skills, like carpentry, cooking and sewing.

'It's all about improving the relevance and quality of what we teach our population,' explains the Secretary of the National Department of Education.

Australia is firmly behind Papua New Guinea's efforts to improve and reshape its education sector. AusAID, for example, is working alongside the Government of Papua New Guinea to establish

stronger education networks.

AusAID also fully supports Papua New Guinea's *National Education Plan 2005–14*.

Joseph Pagelio looks forward to driving the process that will give his people a modern and better education system. His main thesis while studying for his doctorate in Australia was on leadership and management of education. 'I came back with ideas on how to improve the department's performance.' The analytical skills he's developed



are sure to help too. 'For those of us who were fortunate to win a scholarship, an opportunity like this means we can do our jobs better,' he says. 'It broadens our horizons and thinking.'

Joseph Pagelio was awarded an Australian Development Scholarship in 1998. He attended the University of Technology in Queensland for three years while he completed a doctorate in education. On return to Papua New Guinea in 2001 he joined the National Department of Education as Assistant Secretary.

ABOVE LEFT: Dr Joseph Pagelio, Secretary of the National Department of Education (*right*) with AusAID's Romaine Kwesius leafing through the *National Education Plan 2005–14*. Photo: Anna Awasa/AusAID

LEFT: Tararan Primary School in Morobe Province is one of thousands given essential textbooks and materials through AusAID assistance. Photo: Rocky Roe
ABOVE: The building of East Goroka Primary School was funded by AusAID. Photo: Rocky Roe

THE SECOND SHIFT

PAKISTAN: In the morning the boys go to school. In the afternoon it's the girls turn. With a little lateral thinking females, as well as males, are receiving a primary education.

The village of Killi Malla Khail is situated in Pishin District in the remote Province of Balochistan. The region is isolated from the modern world. Women take on the household chores while men scrape out a living. This is the way it has always been – tradition runs deep.

But over the past six years change has been in the air.

In 2000, parents began sending their daughters, as well as their sons, to the local boys' primary school. Although never done before, they decided their daughters, as well as their sons, deserved an education. Under a joint AusAID–UNICEF project, extra reading and writing materials were purchased and distributed – but there was a problem.

The tribal heads resisted the idea of girls attending a boys' school. It was, they pointed out, against tradition for girls to study alongside boys after they had both reached the age of eight. Separate classes could not be held as there was no separate school building. Furthermore, culturally it is not acceptable for girls to be taught by a male teacher.

Despite the setback, the community continued to press for their girls to be educated.



CURRENTLY 51,000 GIRLS ARE BENEFITING FROM THE GIRLS' EDUCATION PROJECT IN BALOCHISTAN.

And so, in 2003, the AusAID–UNICEF team came up with a solution – the Second Shift School for Girls. In the mornings the boys occupy the school premises and in the afternoons, after they've left, the girls move in with their own teacher. The idea has gathered pace with more and more girls wanting to attend school. In 2005, with the help of a small project grant, the community built a new school room in the village from locally available materials.

Prospects for girls are opening up in Pishin District. Traditional roles of women in tribal societies are also going through a rethink. With nearly 240 similar schools established across Balochistan, it's a wonder what can be achieved in 'the second shift'.

The Girls' Education Project is jointly run by AusAID and UNICEF. Its aim is to improve girls' access to quality primary education in four districts of Balochistan Province – Pishin, Kalat, Khuzdar and Sibi.

Balochistan has the lowest level of female education in Pakistan and one of the lowest levels in the world. Existing schools are overcrowded and in many areas do not cater for girls beyond grade 3. The cost of building new schools is usually prohibitive.

ABOVE: Learning takes concentration. Photo: Marwan Naamani/AFP



THE SAND LANDS



DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT CAUSE AN ESTIMATED LOSS OF US\$42 BILLION A YEAR FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD INSECURITY, FAMINE AND POVERTY AND CAN GIVE RISE TO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TENSIONS THAT CAN CAUSE CONFLICTS, FURTHER IMPOVERISHMENT AND LAND DEGRADATION.

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

ABOVE: China. Evidence of desertification. Sand blowing off the Gobi Desert is progressively covering Langtou Gou, a village in Hebei Province about 130 kilometres from Beijing. Many houses have sand drifting up the sides and over the tops of roofs. Photo: Mark Henley/ Panos Pictures

OPPOSITE: Desert camels.
Photo: Mediakoo/AAP



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[1] Afghanistan. The local corner shop. Store selling provisions in Kandahar Province. Photo: Francesco Cito/Panos Pictures

[2] China. Last supper. Camels struggle to get every bit of nutrition from degraded vegetation, Alxa League, Inner Mongolia. Photo: Se Hasibagen

[3] Mauritania. Planting trees to help stave off desertification on the edge of the Sahara. Photo: Clive Shirley/Panos Pictures

[4] Chad. A boy from the nomadic Tubu tribe transports crops across the desert by donkey. Many thousands of people live in and around desert lands. Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures



3



The United Nations has declared 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification to raise global public awareness of advancing deserts. There is an urgent need to safeguard the biological diversity of arid lands covering one-third of the planet and to protect the knowledge and traditions of a billion people affected by advancing sands.

WHAT IS DESERTIFICATION?

Desertification is the process of making or becoming a desert – a dry barren often sand-covered area of land, characteristically desolate, waterless and without vegetation.

HOW DOES IT OCCUR?

Increasing human pressure on the land can lead to desertification through such activities as over-cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation and poor water management. Grazing animals and the process of collecting firewood damage the vegetation holding soil together.

Soil compacted by hard-footed animals is less able to soak up rain and is also easily eroded by the water and wind. Cutting down trees for firewood deprives soil of shade. This leads to an increase in the temperature of the soil and in the rate of evaporation which in turn draws salts to the surface. This further inhibits plant

growth. High demand on – or overuse of – limited soil surfaces and groundwater reserves, cause increased salination.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Loss of soil fertility and vegetation cover plus the decline of groundwater, all of which characterise desertification, lead to loss of biodiversity and productivity. This contributes to social, economic and political tensions. Lower yields from crops or grazing animals may lead to famine, poverty and conflict. Lack of food and fodder may also force people to move away from their traditional lands or local area. In this scenario people lose their connections to the land and their customs.

Even people living far away from desertified lands are affected by sandstorms causing respiratory problems and skin disorders. Blowing sand not only decreases

visibility in towns and cities it clogs rivers and water catchments.

Desertification is both a cause and an effect of poverty. The poor are more likely to be further pushed to the margins by those who are richer and more powerful. The result is they are left to farm the most fragile land where their efforts to make a living are doomed to failure and the land becomes even more impoverished.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

AusAID is encouraging several practices to help rehabilitate degraded land and limit desertification. These include:

- » making use of traditional knowledge
- » prioritising food security over cash cropping
- » promoting alternative income sources
- » reforestation
- » implementing land management strategies, such

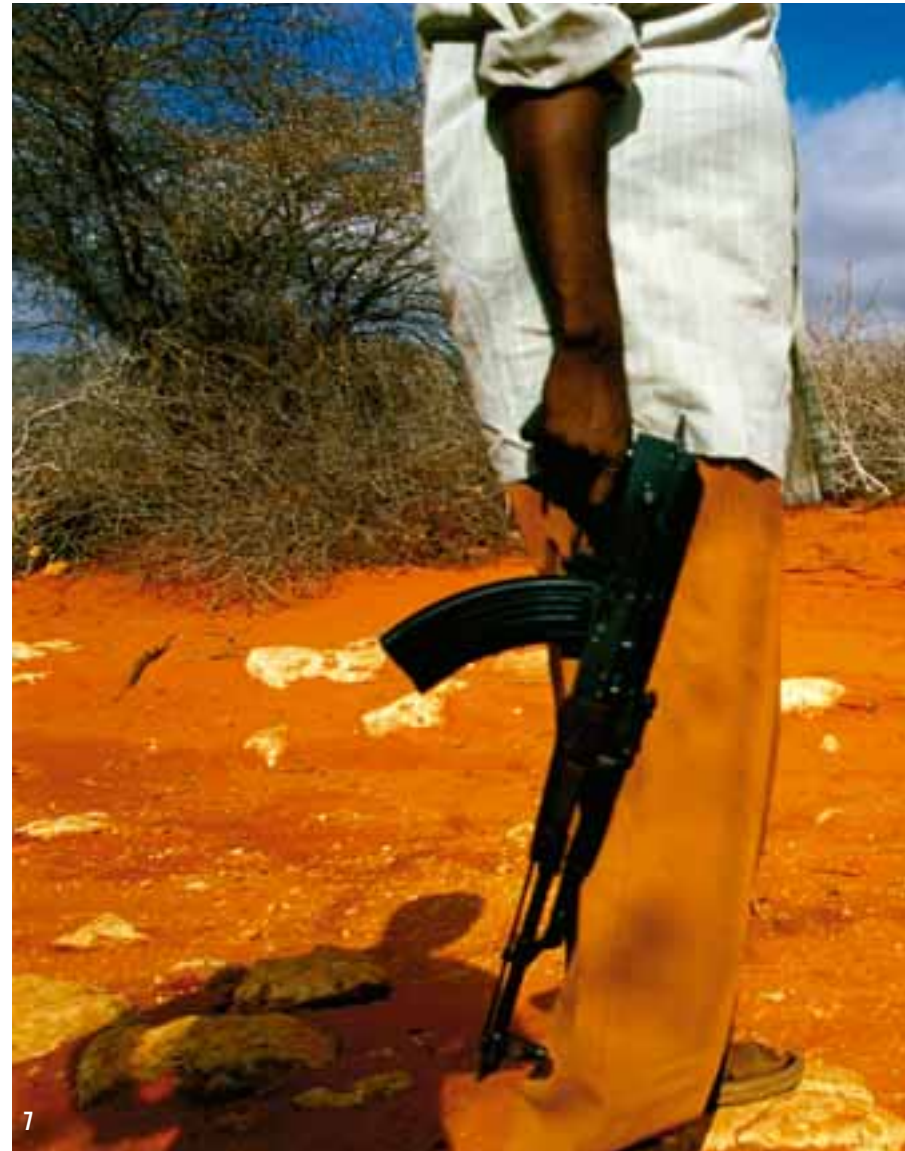
as developing catchment basins and introducing terracing

- » water management which requires efficient use of existing water resources, control of salination and using drip irrigation.

In the past it has been hard to gauge the extent of desertification until it was well advanced. Now satellite imaging is helping monitor changes which are prompting earlier preventive measures.

Methods of combating desertification include:

- » planting seeds of new crops into the straw of previous crops to limit ploughing and soil disturbance
- » devising new crop rotations
- » fixing appropriate animal numbers
- » planting sand-fixing plants and tree belts
- » developing and using renewable energies for heating and cooking.



AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE

Australia's experience in tackling land degradation has been important in helping other countries address their resource management problems. The Australian Government, through AusAID, is currently supporting a range of bilateral programs to combat desertification in developing countries. Through ACIAR (Australian Centre

for International Agricultural Research), the Australian Government is funding collaborative agricultural research projects in China, India, southern Africa and Southeast Asia.

Australian Actions to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation
[<www.deh.gov.au/land/publications/actions>](http://www.deh.gov.au/land/publications/actions)





[5] China. Signs of revegetation along the fence line. The Australian Government has helped fund the Alxa League Environmental Rehabilitation and Management Project to redress the worst effects of environmental changes. Photo: Se Hasibagen

[6] China. Blowing sand not only decreases visibility in towns and cities it clogs rivers and water catchments. Photo: Se Hasibagen

[7] Somalia. Armed security guards man a checkpoint on the desert road from Aden Yabal to Biyo Cadde. Degraded land is made far worse by conflict. Photo: Pep Bonet/Panos Pictures

[8] China. A typical sandstorm blows in from the Gobi Desert. Photo: Se Hasibagen

ABOUT DESERTS

There are many types of deserts with a variety of climates (hot, cold), locations (inland, coastal), appearance (sandy, rocky) and levels of vegetation (none, low groundcover, shrubby bushes). Hot deserts, located near the equator, have hot days and cold nights because of the lack of protective cloud cover. Cold deserts, away from the equator and usually in the centre of continents in high mountainous areas, have winters of ice and snow.

Flora, fauna and people who live in deserts are adapted in many ways to the dry environment. Plants may have deep-root systems to access the water table, water storing leaves, tiny leaves to limit water loss, or are able to respond rapidly when it eventually rains.

Animals manage in the desert in three major ways:

- » evading (migrating out of the area during periods of extreme dry)
- » enduring (limiting water loss)
- » expiring (short life cycles and laying eggs which survive until the next rains).

Traditional desert dwelling people move around during the year to access different water and food sources in order to avoid over-use. In addition to their dependence on the land, many desert people have strong spiritual connections to landforms, and to the flora and fauna.

But increasing population and environmental changes are altering life in the desert. And with the accelerated rate of land

degradation it gets harder for traditional dwellers to survive in a traditional manner.

FACTS

- » The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is 17 June 2006
- » Nearly one-third of the Earth is classed as arid or semi-arid desert
- » An estimated six million hectares of productive land are lost every year because of desertification, land degradation and declining agricultural productivity
- » More than 110 countries are affected by desertification
- » Over 250 million people are directly affected by desertification and a billion are at risk. These people include many of the world's poorest and therefore most marginalised and politically weak citizens
- » The African continent is most affected by desertification. Two-thirds of the continent is desert or drylands, almost three-quarters of which are degraded in some degree
- » Roughly 27 per cent of China's landmass is desertified with thousands of square kilometres of land lost each year to advancing sands. Nearly 400 million people live in these areas. The economic loss to China is estimated at around US\$6.5 billion a year.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <www.unccd.int>

INVESTING

IN PEOPLE



ABOVE: Solomon Islands. AusAID is working alongside partner governments to improve health, particularly women and children's health. Photo: Lorrie Graham

One of the major themes picked up by the White Paper is people.

Within Australia's immediate region there are a number of areas where progress is slow and where the need for action is compelling. These areas include women and children's health, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and education. In direct response to this realisation, a greater emphasis is going on 'building human capital' – that is, helping people to thrive principally through providing better education and health services.

AusAID will work alongside partner governments either to build education and health services or improve those that already exist.

The aid program will also fervently pursue gender equality.

Discriminatory practices, such as a man forbidding his wife to attend numeracy classes so she may have the chance to earn a higher income outside the home, are not only inequitable they're inefficient. Half the productive potential of the community is lost.

A society with gender equality is better for it in other ways too. For example, literate and numerate mothers tend to experience lower infant mortality. They also have fewer children who in turn are healthier through childhood and puberty, and better educated. Further, children of literate and numerate mothers are more likely to become involved in

democratic processes as they enter adulthood.

The benefits for society are immense. Informed and engaged citizens are in a strong position to hold accountable those in political and bureaucratic power. Inept governments or corrupt practices are far more likely to be held in check.

MANY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION FACE SERIOUS CHALLENGES TO REDUCING POVERTY AND MAKING PROGRESS AGAINST THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Most Asia-Pacific countries are making good progress towards universal education but there is plenty more to do. AusAID is applying its resources to three main goals:

- » ensuring quality primary education for all
 - » extending secondary education and vocational training opportunities, especially in the Pacific
 - » investing in future leaders and development through an initiative called Australian Scholarships.
- (www.australianscholarships.gov.au)

GOING BOLDLY

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: After two years in Canberra completing postgraduate studies at the Australian National University, Ruby Zarriga is back home. In the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, she's making the most of her new skills and deeper understanding of management practices. As First Assistant Secretary, Ruby Zarriga is well placed to make a big contribution to her department's effectiveness.

Ruby Zarriga has two important roles – one as a senior bureaucrat in Papua New Guinea's Public Service, the other as the mother of two teenage daughters.

'Receiving an Australian Development Scholarship in 2004 was great. It was such an opportunity for me. Career-wise I was ready to take a Masters degree in management – but it was unfortunate it came at a time when my family was going through a very hard time. We were still in trauma.'

The year before Ruby Zarriga's husband, Reverend Meggen Zarriga, was fatally shot – a victim of random street violence. He was taking their youngest daughter to high school in Port Moresby. It was her first day.

One of the many strengths of the aid program is its longstanding scholarship scheme. With increased understanding that reform and improved performance can only be driven from within – through highly competent and educated leaders – the aid program is promoting leadership and development through 'Australian Scholarships'. This initiative will refine the existing Australian Development Scholarships Program and introduce Australian Leadership Awards.



'I had to become both mother and father. I didn't realise what this would mean, certainly not how hard it would be. I really wasn't prepared for looking after two teenage girls on my own and yet, at the same time, I felt compelled to get the most out of my studies at university. Somehow I had to find the balance between guiding and nurturing my daughters, and getting on with my studies.'

And find the balance she did.

Not only did Ruby Zarriga achieve a Masters in management from one of Australia's leading universities, but also her daughters did well at school. Both are now planning their tertiary studies in Papua New Guinea – one in journalism, the other in tourism.

'We all ended up loving our two years in Canberra. We couldn't get over the sense of freedom and security which was wonderful for the girls. It was important for us to feel safe. The time on our own also allowed us to pull together as a family after my husband's

death,' explains Ruby. 'And we made so many good friends.'

Born in New Hanover, a small island at the tip of Papua New Guinea's New Ireland Province, Ruby always loved learning. As soon as she could walk, she would wander up the road to the local school and sit quietly at the back of the classroom.

One of her primary teachers, Nancy Anderson, spotted her potential and to broaden her experience invited Ruby for a holiday in Warrigul, Victoria. She remembers helping Miss Anderson's mum with 'meals on wheels'. 'I don't know what the locals would have made of me,' Ruby says, 'the only English words I knew were "Yes" and "No".'

Ruby's love for learning continued through secondary school and university. In 1987 she gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work from the University of Papua New Guinea and joined the Public Service. She worked across a range of government departments, mainly in areas of welfare, community planning

LEFT: 'Women must be bold and have the desire to participate in government and administration at senior levels,' says Ruby Zarriga.

Photo: Anna Awasa/AusAID

and training. In 2003, she decided it was again time to extend her skills.

'I'm a great believer in theory and practice going together,' says Ruby. 'For example, through my management studies I can see how our departmental activities can have a broader focus on development. And I've learnt genuine reform only comes about through partnerships, collaboration and integrating cultural and political realities with structural change.'

The Australian development scholarship experience has brought many benefits for Ruby Zarriga and by extension her department. Not surprisingly, she is a firm advocate of the program. Indeed, she would like to see many more Papua New Guineans have the same chance to study abroad, especially women.

'Until the profile of women in Papua New Guinea is raised we will be forfeiting half our potential. Equally, women must be bold and have the desire to participate in government and administration at senior levels.'

As one woman who is definitely leading by example, Ruby Zarriga advises all future scholarship holders to 'grasp the opportunity with both hands and to go with an open mind. Learn from Australians not only about Australia and its ways but also

about your own country from a different perspective. I found, for example, understanding the attitudes of others to Papua New Guinea and its people insightful and empowering.'

Greater understanding between nations also makes for firm foundations for development progress.

On completing her Masters degree in 2005 Ruby Zarriga returned to the Department of National Planning and Monitoring to take up the position of First Assistant Secretary, Sectoral Planning and Programming Division. She oversees all development assistance programs across sectors and agencies.

Under AusAID's Australian Development Scholarships Program, some 130 scholars from Papua New Guinea embark on diploma, undergraduate or postgraduate studies each year in one of 19 contracted tertiary institutions across Australia. Half the awardees are women and, in 2006, there was a 30 per cent increase in the number of postgraduate female awardees.

IMPROVING QUALITY

PAKISTAN: Ahsan Rana returned to his country in mid 2003 with a Masters in social planning and development (professional) from the University of Queensland. He walked straight into a job and started making a difference at a national level.

'The Masters program at the University of Queensland not only gave me excellent practical skills it also deepened my understanding



of social development issues,' says Ahsan Rana. 'For example, social assessment – I think this is an extremely important skill. It's the ability to see the likely impact on a community of an infrastructure project, such as building a bridge.'

The Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy – a prominent and prestigious non-government organisation – secured Ahsan Rana's services shortly after he returned to his country. The centre needed a senior program manager to promote its philanthropy activities. More urgently, it needed a suitably qualified person to manage its evaluation and certification program. First of its kind in the South Asia region, it sought to improve governance and transparency in the Pakistani non-profit sector.

'The centre wanted someone to design and develop a comprehensive set of indicators for measuring performance of non-profit organisations,' explains Ahsan. 'In other words, a sort of glorified check list to make sure everything proceeds properly and well, and all the right boxes can be ticked.'

In all countries around the world, including Australia, government and non-government organisations must conduct their activities according to standards by



which they can be measured and held to account. Following due process is the mark of a functioning state and civil society. Conversely, nations whose central governing bodies and private institutions are without adequate regulations tend to fall into disarray. Furthermore, they are prey to gross inefficiencies and corruption.

'I studied research methodology and had taken courses in evaluating social programs while in Australia as part of my Masters – so I must have presented to the centre with the ideal skill mix to carry out the job.'

Utilising his new skills, Ahsan Rana developed a nationally recognised 'certification model'. This comprises a set of standards outlining the processes and parameters of evaluation for all non-government organisations in such critical areas as internal governance, financial management and program delivery. And while he found the development of evaluation standards quite intense – it involved a great deal of consultation with various interested parties – it has proved highly successful.

In fact, the standards are so successful they have been largely

endorsed by the Government of Pakistan. 'The Government has made tax exemption for non-government organisations contingent upon adopting the certification model designed by the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy. I see this as a breakthrough,' says Ahsan Rana. 'Not only is the Government of Pakistan recognising a good workable model it's also right behind the evaluation process,' says Ahsan. And what's more, 'With improved governance and transparency, Pakistan's civil society is better placed to become partners in social development initiatives, both with government and international development agencies. This can only lead to better quality services.'

For more information about the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy and the certification process see www.pcp.org.pk

ABOVE: Trader selling cups of tea. The Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) supports many small enterprises.

Photo: Anne Rigby/AusAID

ABOVE LEFT: 'I must have presented with the ideal skill mix to carry out the job,' says Ahsan Rana. Photo: PCP

WORTHY CANDIDATE FOR URGENT CAUSE

BANGLADESH: When Bangladesh national Abul Hasnat Milton was awarded a scholarship in 2001, it was just the break he needed to further his research into 'arsenic mitigation'. In Bangladesh, high levels of naturally-occurring arsenic in water supplies affect the health of millions of people. Last year, Abul Hasnat Milton completed his PhD from the Australian National University, Canberra.

'I have been involved in arsenic mitigation activities from the very beginning,' says Dr Milton. 'While working for almost a decade in Bangladesh, I observed a lot of gaps in arsenic-related scientific knowledge and saw first-hand how inadequate knowledge hinders arsenic mitigation programs.'

There are many reasons why Abul Hasnat Milton was a standout for a scholarship. For one he has a clear drive to fill some of those gaps in scientific knowledge. He also has a thorough understanding of the complex issues around arsenic-contaminated water.

With Bangladesh enduring the worst arsenic-related calamity in the world, the need to find solutions is pressing. From a population of 140 million, 57 million people (well over a third) are believed to be exposed to arsenic concentration in drinking water of more than 0.01 mg/L

(the safe standard set by the World Health Organization).

Either through ingesting or inhaling, respected studies over 20 years reveal arsenic exposure produces potentially dire health effects. These range from various skin lesions to diabetes, hypertension, respiratory effects on one hand, to reproductive disorders and cancers on the other. Arsenic exposure may be either acute (effects are short term) or chronic (long-term) in nature.

Abul Hasnat Milton's PhD investigated different ways of 'detoxing' water supplies – so called 'arsenic mitigation options'. He also examined people's attitudes. 'I looked at the compliance and social acceptability of arsenic-free drinking water options and the causes for non-compliance – that is, why people carry on using water they know to be unsafe.'

The findings from this research are already proving invaluable for the national arsenic mitigation program currently in progress in Bangladesh.

But now that he's graduated from the Australian National University, what's next for Abul?

'I'm presently working as a senior lecturer at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Newcastle University. I teach epidemiology to postgraduate students and I'm still very involved with arsenic-related health research in Bangladesh.'

For the moment, Dr Milton is finding the split in his working arrangement ideal. Teaching and sharing his knowledge at one of Australia's top academic institutions is, he says, a way of repaying some of Australia's investment in him. 'That's one side of it, the other is I'm dedicated to my research. The impact on health of high arsenic levels is my life's work and I very much want to



Dr Abul Hasnat Milton's scholarship was funded by a bilateral activity called the Health and Social Research Project, which is part of AusAID's larger South Asia regional program on arsenic mitigation. Key stakeholders in arsenic mitigation programs in Bangladesh are relating his research findings to present arsenic mitigation options.



LEFT: 'The impact on health of high arsenic levels is my life's work,' says Dr Milton. Photo: AusAID

ABOVE: A woman affected by arsenicosis is examined by a doctor. Arsenic poisoning is a chronic illness which causes discolouration and melanosis (a disorder in the body's production of melanin) and can also lead to gangrene. It is caused by drinking water containing high levels of arsenic. Photo: Fernando Molerres/Panos Pictures

help my country solve this grave problem. That I am able to use Newcastle's excellent research facilities is of considerable help.'

But it's not just about Australia's research facilities – it's also the people. Looking back on his scholarship days in Canberra, Abul confesses he misses his uni friends. 'Above all, I miss my wonderful supervisors – Professor Wayne Smith, Dr Bruce Caldwell and Dr Keith Dear – the people who so skilfully directed me to greater knowledge of the world, science and humanity.'

ARSENIC MITIGATION

The term 'arsenic mitigation' generally involves providing drinking water with low arsenic content to populations normally exposed to high levels. It also takes in the management of people suffering from arsenicosis – arsenic poisoning.



PHILIPPINES LANDSLIDE

Australia was among several donors to offer assistance to the Philippines after a landslide engulfed an entire village in southern Leyte in February 2006. Some 1,113 people from Guinsaugon Village are thought to have been killed.

The Australian Government, through AusAID, immediately announced \$1 million in

emergency relief. More than half was given to the Philippines National Red Cross and the remainder shared by UNICEF, Oxfam, Plan International, World Vision and the Leyte Centre for Development and Community and Family Services International.

Survivors were supplied with water, hygiene kits, cooking utensils, food and clothing.

Australia also sent an AusAID-led engineering assessment team that included a geoscientist, a geotechnical engineer and a water and sanitation engineer. The team assisted Philippine authorities assess the potential for further landslides in the area. Members from the team also helped improve water and sanitation conditions in the temporary accommodation centres established for survivors and evacuees from neighbouring villages.

Before the landslide, Guinsaugon had a population of 2,500. There were 385 houses and a primary school. Virtually nothing remains.

TOP: View of the massive landslide which submerged an entire village.

Photo: Rolly Inciong/AusAID

LEFT: AusAID led a team which helped improve water and sanitation in the temporary accommodation centres and assisted with geotechnical assessments. Photo: Laura Kemp/AusAID



PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the eastern districts of the Northwest Frontier Province, bore the full force of the horrific earthquake that struck on 8 October 2005.

An estimated 73,000 people were killed, about 70,000 people were injured and more than 3.3 million made homeless. Lasting for about two minutes, the earthquake was arguably the most debilitating natural disaster in Pakistan's history.

Damage to infrastructure, including communications networks, was extensive.

Within 24 hours, the Australian Government began providing non-government organisations with funds for medical assistance and for setting up field hospitals. Australian aid also provided for food, shelter, water purification tablets and woollen blankets. An



LEFT: Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Zorica McCarthy with Aslam Khan from the World Food Programme (WFP). Australian Black Hawk helicopters helped WFP's operation to distribute pulses to 400,000 people in remote high altitude villages.

Photo: Caroline Chaumont/WFP

BELOW: An Australian army doctor attends to a family in a makeshift hospital.

Photo: Anne Rigby/AusAID



Australian Defence Force medical unit with 140 personnel was sent to Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the northern winter, food and other forms of assistance were flown in by helicopter, especially to people in the highest and most inaccessible areas. Australia is also contributing to reconstruction programs through the multilateral development banks and is offering the expertise of Australians, including volunteers, in such sectors as

engineering, master planning and architecture.

Heavy winter snowfalls have made rebuilding efforts difficult in areas worst affected but reconstruction is well underway now.

Australia's total earthquake assistance to Pakistan has reached \$84 million – with almost half this amount going to emergency and relief activities and the remainder towards rehabilitation and reconstruction.

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Since the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004 destroyed lives and settlements in provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra, the Australian Government has spent \$100 million on relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

Australian assistance has:

- » helped rebuild the main hospital in Banda Aceh and health infrastructure
- » helped re-establish local government services and repair vital community infrastructure, such as Banda Aceh's main port
- » repaired and re-equipped schools, as well as supported and trained teachers to allow the education system to function
- » re-established property boundaries for over 24,000 individual land parcels in 172 villages

- » helped village leaders plan reconstruction of their villages, access support and essential services (including from other donors and the Government of Indonesia)
- » improved temporary shelter and expedited the construction of permanent homes (this work has been commended by the United Nations as a model of proper planning and implementation)
- » delivered vital food supplies, water and sanitation services to tsunami victims.

The Head of Indonesia's Aceh Reconstruction Authority, Dr Kuntoro, has applauded Australia's positive contribution to the reconstruction effort.

ABOVE: Building and repair work in progress. Photo: Peter Davis

IMPROVING SKILLS

Fiji: The response is always strong in this Pacific island nation when quality training is offered or there's a chance to learn practical employment skills.



FINDING ANOTHER WAY

There's no such thing as a free secondary education and many families just can't manage the fees.

Tevita's interest in continuing his education was well known by his teachers, family and friends, but with seven brothers and sisters to support, his parents simply couldn't afford to pay the extra school fees. It was clear he had to find some form of employment.

A close relative encouraged him to take up vocational studies to gain some work skills. The idea took hold. All he had to do was enrol at the Ratu Navula Secondary School. It's one of several schools in Fiji with a 'vocational unit', equipped and managed through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project funded by AusAID.

The unit offers a number

of different courses including carpentry and joinery, beauty therapy and automotive engineering but, for Tevita, it was catering that captured his interest.

In the first two semesters, course work is divided into theory and practical components.

During the third and final semester, students are given a three-month work placement in a local hotel – in other words, an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Over this time the hotel manager assesses a student's efforts in a number of key areas. Scores are included as part of students' final marks at school.

As soon as he started his vocational studies, Tevita excelled. The practical side of hotel work

suit him and he found the hands-on approach to learning a refreshing change to his many years of traditional academic study.

His keen interest and high standard of work were soon noticed by his hotel management team. Within a few weeks of starting, he was offered a part-time job. For Tevita, it was the perfect solution. 'I couldn't believe my good fortune when the manager offered me a part-time job even before my course was finished! My parents were very excited too.'

Suddenly Tevita found he was in a position to realise his ambitions – he had the means to pay for his own further studies. 'I will work full-time for now,' he

says. 'My plan is to gain further skills and experience but, at the same time, earn enough money to take a diploma course at the Fiji Institute of Technology.'

A bright future lies ahead for Tevita in the growing Fiji tourism industry, particularly around Nadi which is his own region. Located in the west of the main island of Viti Levu, Nadi is a major holiday centre as well as the gateway to some of the world's most beautiful tropical islands of white sands and blue lagoons.

Vocational studies, as Tevita's story clearly shows, offer a viable alternative to traditional schooling. Young people eager to experience the real world of work but who also want to finish their studies have both flexibility and the opportunity to specialise. More than this, because of the hands-on training and the transfer of practical skills, young people have a chance of following a career.

Through funding from AusAID the Fiji Education Sector Program (FESP) supports a number of schools to improve the quality of technical and vocational education and training. The program provides equipment and hands-on training. The Ratu Navula Secondary School is one of several schools with a vibrant vocational unit.

FAR LEFT: Learning the catering trade, vocational skills unit at Ratu Navula Secondary School.

LEFT: Carpentry is another option for vocational skills training. Photos: FESP

WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

Never underestimate the determination of an individual, especially a highly motivated kindergarten teacher.



Mere teaches kindergarten in a remote village in Fiji. One morning while taking her bath in the river a passer-by told her about a workshop for kindergarten teachers. Mere was immediately interested. As an untrained teacher she craved an opportunity to improve her skills and discuss different learning methods.

After confirming details with another teacher from a neighbouring village, Mere decided she would attend the workshop which was in Suva. It didn't matter that she wasn't invited – her problem was getting there. She had to cross a wide river in flood.

The only way was by the village's single boat which usually made the trip every day at 7.00 a.m. By 7.45 a.m. when there was still no sign of the boat, Mere was told it had headed off on a fishing trip.

For most people this would be the end of the story but Mere is a determined and very dedicated

kindergarten teacher and nothing was going to stop her from attending the workshop. She decided to swim.

At the other side she boarded a bus to Suva. The workshop started at 9 a.m. Mere arrived at 9.45 a.m – and was embraced as a hero.

Was the supreme effort worth it? 'Oh yes,' says Mere. 'I learnt such a lot about managing young students, group activities and story telling.'

The value of the workshops is confirmed by Mr Alekisio Sela, Director of the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education in Fiji. 'They are specifically designed to provide early childhood teaching strategies to kindergarten teachers and also to pass on some practical ideas. As many of our teachers are not formally qualified it's important they are exposed to quality professional training.'

Just as the workshop started on a high note so it finished. When it



became known materials at Mere's school were in short supply the workshop presenters set about securing her a large box of paper and pencils. Although carefully sealed for the precarious journey home, fortunately, on the way back, Mere was able to take the boat.

The Fiji Education Sector Program is funded by AusAID. As part of the program's support for early childhood education, it arranged a pilot for 20 early childhood schools. The workshop attended by Mere was part of this pilot. The training provided by the Fiji Education Sector Program is highly valued and teachers – Mere is a prime example – go to great lengths to participate. Although Mere's swimming feat may be a one-off she was not the only teacher who paid all her own expenses. These included travelling costs and accommodation over the several days of the workshop.

LEFT: Mere with some of her young charges.

ABOVE: School is definitely fun with Mere. Photos: FESP

FOOD ON THE MOVE



PHILIPPINES: A mobile kitchen is giving young people a chance to learn about life and the means to make a living.

There are hundreds of school-age children in Bulacan Province who, for all sorts of reasons, do not attend school.

One of the more obvious is poverty. Many children come from desperately poor families unable to afford school fees. Some kids just don't like school – it has no relevance or appeal. For others it's a case of feeling they don't belong or have missed too much, either through illness, family breakdown or because they're too often needed at home.

The National Youth Commission reports only 40 out of every 100 children finish secondary school. Almost 15 per cent of the country's youth population are so called 'out of school children' from poor households. Without either education or opportunity for stable employment, they're destined to perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

But there's hope. For many children who don't go to traditional school, a vocational training course is proving a godsend.

Over 300 young people are learning how to cook through a new scheme – a catering skills course like no other. Instead of students sitting quietly in a classroom listening thoughtfully, they're up on their feet chopping, mixing and whisking. They're lively and alert and discussions are intense. This is hands-on learning at its exciting best.

The four walls of a standard classroom have been substituted for a specially modified container van. Complete with special fixtures and modern appliances, it's a state-of-the-art kitchen and training room on wheels. There's even a built-in 'audiovisual' so trainee cooks can watch expert instructors demonstrate new and fancy techniques.

The catering skills course is a big winner. In 2004, it was judged one of the top activities in the *Panibagong Paraan* contest organised by the World Bank.

No other aid activity quite matches the versatility – or indeed



mobility – of the kitchen van which travels all around Bulacan Province. Sometimes it's seen in Baliuag or San Miguel, other times it's in San Ildefonso or Bustos – or perhaps Guiguinto, Pulilan or Plaridel. Whatever the place, it's never far from the Town Hall which provides water, electricity and security, courtesy of the local government.

Executive Director of the Culinary Education Foundation which runs the project, Rosette Yupangco, says disadvantaged young people are getting a chance at life. 'The training courses help those who are keen, and willing to learn, to pursue a career in the food industry. And because we come to them in the provinces they don't have to make their way to Manila – which is often dangerous and difficult for young people.'

Chefs and culinary instructors are both pleased to be passing on their skills and inspired by the project's success. Non-formal practical education that prepares young people for useful employment is proving a way forward. Making food is quite literally a move out of poverty.

'The food industry has the capacity to absorb many employees as it is very labour intensive,' says Rosette Yupangco. 'Also, as

the food industry grows it will spur growth in other industries, such as manufacturing and merchandising. Restaurants need plates and tablecloths, wall hangings and furniture and so on.'

After students graduate many will start their own businesses in their local areas. This will be encouraged, as will higher sights – perhaps some will go abroad.

'We aim to develop world-class socially aware Filipino chefs by instilling knowledge, discipline and top skills so that they may succeed anywhere in the competitive food industry,' says Rosette Yupangco. 'The sky's the limit.'

The mobile catering courses are run by the Culinary Education Foundation which is part funded by AusAID through the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program. Other donors include the Canadian International Development Agency, Ai-Hu Foundation and various private corporations.

LEFT: Inside the van – cooking class in session.

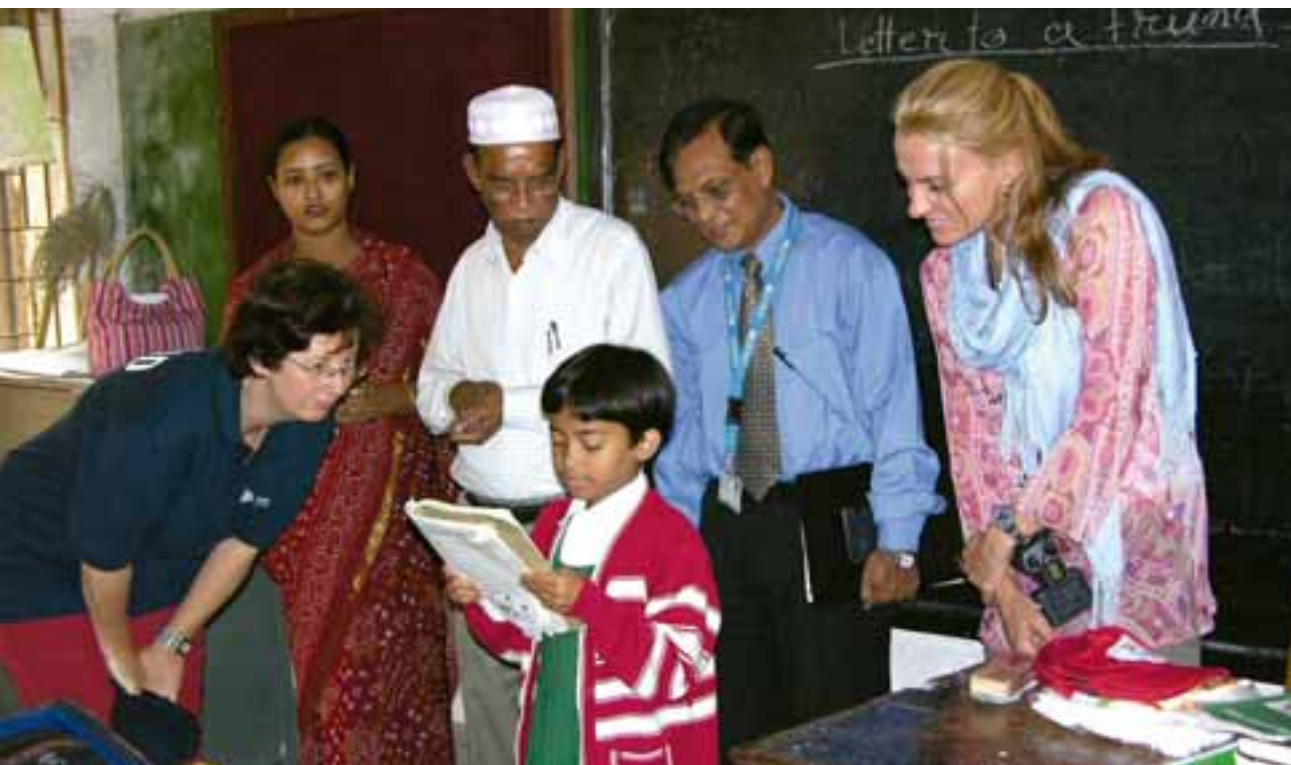
ABOVE: Some of the students, teachers and sponsor representatives.

Photos: Rolly Inciong/AusAID

VIEWPOINT

THE POVERTY TRAP

Author and host of the television show 'Big Brother' Gretel Killeen is also a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. She recently visited Bangladesh and writes about the importance of education as a way out of poverty.



What is it really like to live in profound poverty? As a visitor I know that poverty is of course the tangibles, the lack of shelter, the lack of food, the discomfort, the illness, the intolerably and unnecessarily high mortality rates. But as a visitor I can also only imagine the very real invisible consequences of profound poverty.

With UNICEF I have walked the sewage-lined streets of the slums of Bangladesh, I've held the hands of children in a makeshift hospital in tsunami devastated Aceh, in Africa I've seen families clean their teeth with a stick, and children care for their carers as they die from HIV/AIDS. I've seen six-year-old

factory workers, I've seen adult men sorting through garbage to earn a few cents a day to feed a family, I've seen exploitation, abuse and vulnerability but I have never seen, as I can't, the internal devastation of profound poverty.

So I can only imagine what it's like to live with the utter desolation of knowing that this jagged life will be yours forever, and it will be the life of your children, and the life of their children too.

Poverty is waking every morning feeling ill because the water you drink is contaminated and you've had gastric problems all your life. Poverty is waiting in line to use a toilet that is a hole in the ground shared by 60 of your

closest neighbours. Poverty is dizziness, poverty is using all your energy to perform the simplest of tasks, poverty is humiliation but perhaps more than anything profound poverty is the realisation that this situation will never ever change.

In our society we perhaps take for granted the value of 'hope' in the possibility of change. We perhaps don't appreciate how vital it is for our well-being to know that things are always changing and can therefore get better; we have a weekend coming up, or four weeks holiday a year, to know that tomorrow's meal can be different from today's, that we might get a promotion, or even win lotto, or

live by the sea, and our children can grow up to be anything they want. Yes we take the 'hope' in our lives for granted, it surrounds us and the choices it provides even cause some to drown in confusion. But for those living in profound poverty the only true hope of anything ever changing is through education.

And we're not just talking of those fortunate enough to follow a school education with tertiary studies, we're talking about even the most fundamental elements of education, simply learning to read and write. The ramifications of an education extend far beyond scholastic walls. With an education a child can learn how to avoid exploitation by being able to count the family's pay, to perhaps read a contract before a life is signed away, to understand human rights in terms of sexual, physical or financial abuse, who to contact for help, or how to grow a new crop.

Education is a way out of poverty and the key to emancipation. The Australian Government and UNICEF contribute to this emancipation in Bangladesh through the funding of schools.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Gretel Killeen (right) with AusAID's Janet Donnelly (far left) and UNICEF Bangladesh representatives enjoying a reading at Zigatola Primary School, Dhaka. Photo: Salma Siddique/UNICEF

HEALTH

WAN SMOLBAG

VANUATU: Wan Smolbag Theatre is going from strength to strength. From a small group of voluntary actors in 1989, it's now arguably the Pacific's premier drama company.

The group generally produces plays about social and environmental issues which are important to Vanuatu. With nearly half the country's population under the age of 29, young people dominate the audience. Most are poor, uneducated and live in the squatter settlements around the capital, Port Vila. Chances of employment are slim in a society where few job opportunities exist, particularly for unskilled workers.

Young people who feel they have unpromising prospects in life are at greater risk of unsafe behaviours that thrive in poverty, such as HIV, substance and physical abuse and teenage pregnancy.

Drama – because it's lively, entertaining and performed by people more or less the same age – is proving a successful way of reaching young people and offering help. Strong social messages contained in the plays stimulate helpful discussions and encourage healthier attitudes. For many, the drama group is a safe haven. Several of Wan Smolbag's seasoned performers are originally from fringe settlements.

It used to be the group would travel around Port Vila, taking just one small bag (hence the name – 'wan smolbag') to carry props and costumes. Now it's ready, willing and able to travel to far flung communities and even to neighbouring countries. There's

WE PERFORM PLAYS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS, HIV AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES. IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WERE UNEMPLOYED AND FEARED THEY LACKED ANY SORT OF SOCIAL STATUS BECOME LEADERS IN COMMUNITY THEATRE AND EDUCATION.

Jo Dorras, scriptwriter for Wan Smolbag Theatre

growing demand for a tour of the Asia Pacific.

Many of the productions are improvised but some require accurate medical information. These plays are written by Jo Dorras, a former English teacher and professional scriptwriter. 'I do a lot of reading and a lot of research. I'm aware this may be the only information people hear, so it has to be correct.'

Plays cover as many social and environmental issues as possible. 'Often we take information and find a way of performing it. We know it's just not available through any other means. There is little or no opportunity to access information in rural areas,' says Jo. 'Young people in the northern island of Santo report all their reproductive health information



comes from Wan Smolbag productions.'

There's no doubt Wan Smolbag is entertaining but it's the serious side that carries most weight. After each production, actors lead discussions about key messages. 'The play, *Solid Sisters*, for example, is about domestic violence and oppression of women which is a big problem in Vanuatu,' says Jo. 'The actors ask the audience how they feel about anger and



VOLUNTEERING

KEEPING THE BOOKS

CAMBODIA: After a year at the National Library of Cambodia helping staff to upgrade their skills Queensland librarian Louise Barber can say 'mission accomplished'.

aggression in the family. Talking about things is very much the way things are done here. In general people aren't readers. This is much more an oral society where the spoken word is prominent. Ni-Vanuatu culture lends itself beautifully to drama.'

Staff of Wan Smolbag consist of 50 paid employees. Drama remains central to its activities but, building on its success in reaching young people, the group is expanding its scope. For example, it has opened a club, funded by AusAID, which has more than 700 members. It offers all manner of learning opportunities from computing to karate, from literacy lessons to rap dance. The sporting facilities are good too.

With these developments and through its tireless theatre work, Wan Smolbag shows it's firmly on the side of youth and a healthy and safe future for all Ni-Vanuatu.

AusAID is a long-term supporter of Wan Smolbag and of activities promoting healthy lifestyles for young people in the Pacific.

ABOVE LEFT AND LEFT: Many of the plays are about health issues or have strong social messages. *Solid Sisters*, for example, is about domestic violence and oppression of women which is a big problem in Vanuatu,' says scriptwriter Jo Dorras.

Photos: Wan Smolbag Theatre



With guidance from volunteer librarian Louise Barber (*left*) library staff Chhoun Mony (*standing*) and Ros Sarou learn computer cataloguing software. Photo: Kevin Evans

The National Library of Cambodia, an elegant 1920s building, stands next door to the historic Raffles Le Royale Hotel and is on the same street as Phnom Penh's only hill. Under French colonial rule its book-lined rooms were graced by government officials and visiting French scholars. In the 1950s, Khmer books, including precious palm-leaf manuscripts, were added to the collection. By the late 1960s, the library was a respectable size and attracting international attention.

But, by 1975, everything was gone. Under the Khmer Rouge, its contents were systematically scattered or destroyed.

When the library re-opened in 1980, it was heavily dependent on donated books from other countries. 'The collection has been re-stocked over the past 25 years but it is slow progress and resources are limited,' explains Australian volunteer Louise Barber.

In terms of staff, the library is also seriously under-resourced. Part of the problem is Cambodia

is unable to offer formal training for librarians. Students who want to study must find sponsorship to go abroad. The trouble is many, once qualified, don't come back. Those who do, tend to be snapped up by academic or non-government organisations that can pay employees attractive salaries. Several are based in Phnom Penh.

Wages at the national library range from the equivalent of \$20 to \$30 a month. 'It's difficult to live on such a salary and you can't blame qualified people for



Buying books is beyond the reach of most households in Cambodia, one of the poorest countries in Asia. Not surprisingly, there is a thriving market in cheap, photocopied books. 'Protecting intellectual property is a big issue but there is no escaping the fact that these cheaper versions are the only option for many people. They sell like hotcakes which puts paid to the notion Cambodia is not a nation of readers,' says librarian Louise Barber. The importance of setting up more lending libraries, particularly in remote rural areas, is self evident. For a developing country eager to move forward, giving people access to reading material is essential.

searching out better paid jobs,' says Louise.

Although the staff at the national library lack professional training, they do have experience and knowledge about the collection. And they are extremely dedicated. 'One of the reasons staff turnover is so low is many of these workers are honoured to work at the country's leading library,' Louise says.

But the lack of formal training in librarianship and little experience with electronic systems was beginning to catch up with national library staff. Services they could reasonably provide to the public were minimal.

'The first thing I did when I arrived was to make an ISBN database and train staff how to use it,' Louise says. 'They all knew about ISBN and had information on it but because it was in English and their computer skills were limited they weren't able to introduce it.' (ISBN, which stands for International Standard Book

Number, is used by publishers and booksellers to track individual titles. The system also simplifies library cataloguing and research.)

'I also spent a lot of time teaching staff how to use the library catalogue software created by UNESCO for libraries in developing countries. Up to this time, staff generally relied on their good memories and knowledge of the Dewey decimal system to find a book.'

Towards the end of her assignment Louise knew her job was done. How could she be so sure? Simple. She could see she was redundant.

'The library now has an officer dedicated to ISBN who does all the allocations and liaison with publishers. It's down to a fine art and I don't need to be involved at all.'

Having an ISBN system raises the profile of the national library within and outside Cambodia and will eventually lead to the production of more books and

better distribution of them. For instance, now staff are able to keep accurate records of new Cambodian titles as they are published they can produce a 'books in print' catalogue. When it's distributed to other libraries and booksellers, it will, over time, become an essential information and buying tool.

Louise found her assignment at the National Library of Cambodia hugely rewarding. Summing up she says, 'The opportunity to help dedicated staff realise their potential through sharing my skills has been truly tremendous.'

The experience has also deepened Louise's resolve to continue working in developing countries in the information sector. 'It strikes me as so unfair that some people in this world have endless access to books and computers and others have virtually none. I always wanted to get into this sort of work. I love working in libraries in Australia but it is also extremely

rewarding to work in a country, like Cambodia, where access to reading materials and technology isn't taken for granted and there is such joy in learning through books and sharing information.'

Louise Barber from Sunnybank in Brisbane, Queensland, went to Cambodia as part of AusAID's Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations and French from the University of Queensland and a Graduate Diploma in library and information studies from Queensland's University of Technology.

For more information on the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program visit <www.ausaid.gov.au/youtham>

LEFT: Sorting and cataloguing – Louise Barber with library staff member Chack Tuoch. Photo: Kevin Evans

DON'T TURN AWAY

CHILD WISE suggests that some two million children are sexually exploited each year. Children in less developed countries, such as Cambodia, the Philippines and Vietnam, are particularly at risk. Poverty seriously undermines child protection measures.



TURN A CHILD-SEX TOURIST INTO AN EX-TOURIST.

CHILD-SEX TOURISTS
DON'T TURN AWAY. TURN THEM IN.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR ON 0361-226783. ext. 127 (Bali)

CHILD WISE Australian Government AusAID

Over the past decade, the joint efforts of governments in the Asia Pacific have brought about stronger child protection laws, heightened surveillance measures and raised community awareness. CHILD WISE, with the support of the Australian Government, through AusAID, is working tirelessly to prevent child-sex tourism in the region.

A new campaign, launched throughout Asia, urges tourists and those working in tourism to act responsibly should they notice unnatural or suspicious behaviour between international visitors and local children. The message is, 'Don't turn away. Turn them in'. Numerous police hotlines have been established at popular and less well-known tourist locations. The need to protect children from

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT CHILD SEX RACKETS AND APPREHEND INDIVIDUAL OFFENDERS.

sexual exploitation has never been more urgent.

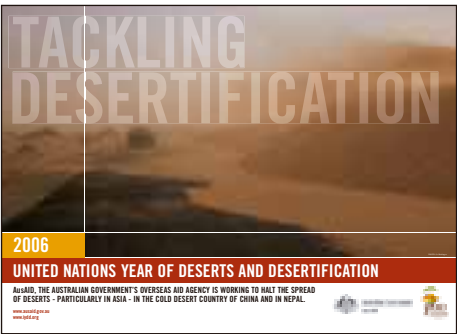
Billboards, stickers and posters are everywhere educating tourists about the problem. The 'Don't turn away' campaign is in hotels, airline facilities, Internet cafes, travel agencies and taxis, including tuk-tuks. Perpetrators of child sex crimes must be stopped.

CHILD WISE started in Australia in 1993 and has been funded by AusAID for more than a decade. It is part of the international ECPAT network operating in over 70 countries. Its single aim is to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. (ECPAT stands for End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes.) Concerns about Australians sexually exploiting children overseas should be referred to the Australian Federal Police on 1800 813 784. For more information about CHILD WISE see <www.childwise.net>

LEFT: A new campaign is helping to close the net on perpetrators of child sexual abuse and individuals seeking child-sex holidays. Photo: CHILD WISE

FOR TEACHERS

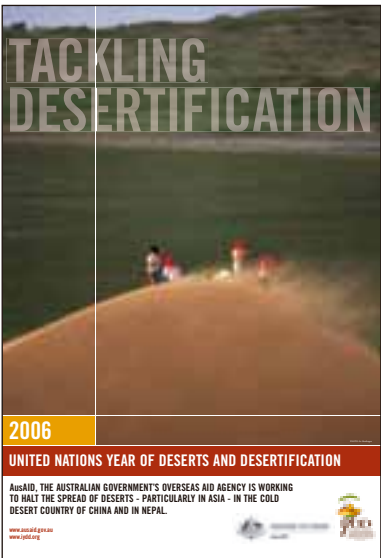
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TACKLING DESERTIFICATION

2006
UNITED NATIONS YEAR OF DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION

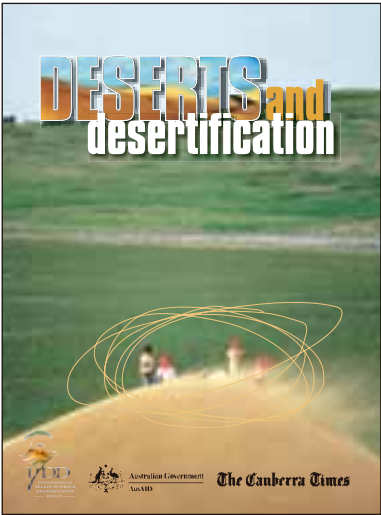
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DESERTS and desertification

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Enquiries and feedback relating to *Focus* should be sent to:

Patricia Gibson
The Editor, *Focus*
Public Affairs Group
AusAID
GPO Box 887
Canberra ACT 2601

Tel (02) 6206 4967
Fax (02) 6206 4695
Email patricia.gibson@ausaid.gov.au

Other contributors: Anna Awasa, Anita Dodds, Elizabeth James, Fiona Kotvojs, Rolly Inciong, Shoaib Tayyab, Anna Viola

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