



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

John Allwright Alumni Association Newsletter – January 2008

Welcome to the first edition of the John Allwright Alumni Association Newsletter for 2008. Through this newsletter, ACIAR is maintaining linkages with all of the former students that we supported through the John Allwright (postgraduate) Fellowship program, and who have now returned to their home countries. Alumni keep involved with ACIAR in other ways. Some have a leadership role in projects while others have been invited to assist in the delivery of short ACIAR-sponsored training courses. In 2006 and 2007, Alumni have been involved in assisting as tutors in a number of short training courses. JAF Alumni are also invited to in-country functions – including country consultations, training activities and impact assessment meetings, among other functions.

Endeavour fellowships 2008 – opportunities for John Allwright Alumni and for ACIAR project scientists

The Endeavour Research Fellowships, **managed by the Australian Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations**, provide financial support for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows from participating countries to undertake short-term research, in any field of study, in Australia. The Research Fellowships, which are valued at up to AUD 25,000 aim to:

- enable high achieving scholars from participating countries to undertake research in Australia
- further develop award holders' knowledge and skills in their field of research
- strengthen bilateral ties between Australia and the participating countries
- showcase Australia's education sector
- strengthen mutual understanding between the people of Australia and award holders' home countries
- build international linkages and networks.

Award holders must spend a minimum of 4 months and a maximum of 6 months at their host institution. The research project must be taken in one block, it cannot be broken into two or more visits to Australia. Up to 166 awards will be offered to applicants from many countries. Researchers from the following ACIAR partner countries are eligible: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Laos, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

To be eligible for an Endeavour Research Fellowship, applicants must:

- be citizens or permanent residents of, and physically resident in a participating country.
- have a completed undergraduate degree that demonstrates high academic achievement
- either be enrolled in a Masters or PhD course in their home country or have completed a PhD
- demonstrate English language proficiency
- have a confirmation of acceptance from their proposed host institution in Australia.

Applicants will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- a record of high-level academic achievement in the applicant's chosen field of study
- a well defined research program
- a proposal that is relevant to the needs and interests of Australia and the applicant's home country
- the applicant's potential to foster ongoing collaboration and cooperation with Australia and potential to participate at a high level in the academic or wider community in their home country on return from Australia.

The **Endeavour Executive Awards** also close on 31 July. They provide professional development opportunities (e.g. intensive management training, peer-to-peer learning, short-term training, leadership and/or executive management training) for high achievers in business, industry, education or government from participating countries. The awards focus on building skills and knowledge through a host work environment rather than through formal enrolment in a study programme at a host institution and are not intended to fund direct academic research.

Applicants must be nominated by either their home organisation or host organisation. The Endeavour Executive Awards aim to:

- enable high achieving professionals to further develop their skills and knowledge
- deepen professional engagements between Australia and participating countries
- strengthen mutual understanding between the people of Australia and award holders' home countries
- build linkages and networks between Australia and participating countries
- allow professionals the opportunity, on returning home, to share their updated skills and knowledge with colleagues.

Award holders must spend a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 4 months at their host organisation. To be eligible for an Endeavour Executive Award, applicants must:

- be citizens or permanent residents of a participating country and physically resident in that country
- have a completed undergraduate degree and at least 5 years professional work experience **or** applicants not holding a completed undergraduate degree will need to demonstrate at least 10 years relevant work experience
- demonstrate English language proficiency

- be nominated by either their home organisation or the host organisation
- have confirmation of acceptance or affiliation with the host organisation.

Applicants will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- high-level academic achievement and at least 5 years relevant work experience **or** applicants not holding a completed undergraduate degree will need to demonstrate at least 10 years relevant work experience
- a proposal that is relevant to the applicant's needs and interests and those of the applicant's home country
- the applicant's potential to participate at a high level in their profession or the wider community on their return home from Australia
- the potential for ongoing links between the host and home organisations.

Applications for both types of awards close 31 July 2007 for 2008, and more information is available at http://www.endeavour.dest.gov.au/summary_endeavour_awards/

Training manuals now available

The course notes from some of ACIAR's most popular short courses that have delivered over the last four years have been compiled into four training manuals. The manuals can be downloaded from the ACIAR website (www.aciar.gov.au), or alternatively hard copies provided on request to comms@aciarc.gov.au. The four training manuals are:

- Communicating Science (P. Holford, J. Malfroy, P. Parker, P. Robinson, W. Ward and P. Kailola)
- Social and Community Dimensions to ACIAR projects (D. Race)
- Research Management for Foresters (M. Blyth)
- Financial and Economic Research Methods (S. Harrison and J. Herbohn)

John Allwright Fellowship program update

John Allwright Fellowship Meeting

The annual meeting of new John Allwright Fellows was held from 15-19 October 2007 and was attended by 32 Fellows. This meeting enables Fellows to get better acquainted with ACIAR and relevant program managers, obtain a better understanding of how their project fits into the broader collaborative program in their country, and to meet other ACIAR postgraduate students. During the week coaching was provided on scientific writing, research and thesis writing skills and making oral presentations. Students provided a presentation on their project on the final day of the meeting.

Selection round for 2009 awards - Please also note that only ONE selection round will be held in 2008 and the closing date will be 31 July 2008.

Successful John Allwright candidates commencing during 2008

Successful candidates who will commence during the 2008 calendar year are listed in the Table below. Depending on the outcomes of their language training up to a further 12 short-listed candidates may also start in June/July this year.

Name	Country	ACIAR Project
Mr Enamul Kabir	Bangladesh	LWR/2005/001 - Addressing constraints to pulses in cereals-based cropping systems, with particular reference to poverty alleviation in north-western Bangladesh
Ms Sultana Nasrin	Bangladesh	LWR/2005/146 - Expanding the area for Rabi-season cropping in southern Bangladesh
Mr Pema Chofil	Bhutan	HORT/2005/142 - Improving mandarin production in Bhutan and Australia through the implementation of on-farm best management practices
Mr Cheth Kimngoy	Cambodia	CIM/1999/048 - Increased productivity of rice-based cropping systems in Lao PDR, Cambodia and Australia
Mr Pol Chanthy	Cambodia	ASEM/2000/109 - Farming systems research for crop diversification in Cambodia and Australia
Mr Ge Yonghong	China	HORT/1998/140 - Postharvest handling and disease control in melons in China and Australia
Ms Pubuzhuoma	China	CIM/2002/093 - Intensifying production of grain and fodder in Central Tibet farming systems
Ms Xiangba Zhuoga	China	LPS/2002/104 - Increasing milk production from cattle in Tibet
Ms Wang Li	China	LPS/2002/104 - Increasing milk production from cattle in Tibet
Mr Eduardo Serrao	East Timor	LPS/2003/004 - Building agricultural knowledge and R&D capacity in Timor Leste: a small projects facility
Mr Vicente Correia	East Timor	LPS/2003/004 - Building agricultural knowledge and R&D capacity in Timor Leste: a small projects facility
Mr Fereti Atumiririva	Fiji	HORT/2004/063 - Integrated pest management in a sustainable production system for Brassica crops in Fiji and Samoa
Ms Eka Puspitawati	Indonesia	AGB/2000/072 - Improving resource use efficiency in the coconut industry of North Sulawesi and its national implications
Ms Sahara	Indonesia	ADP/2005/066 - Fruit Markets in Indonesia: Innovating for "Competitiveness with Inclusiveness"
Mr Rafiuddin Palinrunji	Indonesia	SMAR/2005/074 - Improving cocoa production through farmer involvement in demonstration trials of potentially superior and pest/disease resistant genotypes and integrated management practices
Ms Wirastuti Widyatmanti	Indonesia	FIS/2002/076 - Land capability assessment and classification for sustainable pond-based aquaculture systems
Ms Nurul Hilmia	Indonesia	AH/2004/032 - Identification of policy responses to minimise negative socio-economic impacts of an avian influenza epidemic in Indonesia

Ms Enti Sirnawati	Indonesia	SMAR/2007/193 - Quality management to enhance effective supply chains for mangoes and rambutans in Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), Indonesia
Mr Gerhard Eli Sebastian	Indonesia	FST/2005/177 - Value adding to Lao PDR plantation timber products
Ms Yuliana Wulan	Indonesia	PLIA/2002/066 - Economic potential of land-use change and forestry for carbon sequestration and poverty reduction
Ms Sumarningsih	Indonesia	AH/2006/050 - Control and characterisation of highly pathogenic avian influenza strains in poultry in Indonesia
Mr Zahrul Muttaqin	Indonesia	FST/2007/052 - Improving governance, policy and institutional arrangements to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation
Mr Harimurti Nuradji	Indonesia	AH/2004/040 - The epidemiology, pathogenesis and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza in ducks in Indonesia and Vietnam
Mr Muhammad Undu	Indonesia	FIS/2003/027 - Planning tools for environmentally sustainable tropical finfish cage culture in Indonesia and northern Australia
Mr Kaisone Phengsopha	Laos	FST/2005/100 - Value adding to Lao PDR plantation timber products
Ms Saira Masood	Pakistan	HORT/2005/157 - Optimising mango supply chains for more profitable horticultural agri-enterprises in Pakistan and Australia
Mr Sonny Domingo	Philippines	ASEM/2003/009 - Bridging the gap between seasonal climate forecasts and decision makers in agriculture
Mr Samuel Bernaldez	Philippines	ASEM/2003/052 - Improving financial returns to smallholder tree farmers in the Philippines
Mr Dante Margate	Philippines	SMCN/2004/078 - Evaluation and adoption of improved farming practices on soil and water resources, Bohol Island, the Philippines
Mr Beng Umali	Philippines	SMCN/2004/069 - Minimising agricultural pollution to enhance water quality in Laguna de Bay (Philippines) and Mt Lofty Ranges (Australia)
Ms Jessie Abuida-Mitir	Papua New Guinea	FST/2006/088 - Promoting diverse fuelwood production systems in Papua New Guinea
Mr Peter Edwin	Papua New Guinea	FST/2006/120 - Increasing downstream value adding in PNG's forest and wood products industry
Mr Mubashir Mehdi	Papua New Guinea	HORT/2005/157 - Optimising mango supply chains for more profitable horticultural agri-enterprises in Pakistan and Australia
Ms Nicholar Boas	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2004/077 - Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme for UNITECH, University of Lae, Papua New Guinea
Mr John Kaius	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2002/014 - Improving productivity and the participation of youth and women in the Papua New Guinea cocoa, coconut and oil palm industries

Mr Leo Aroga	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2004/042 - Assessing and extending schemes to enhance the profitability of the PNG coffee industry via price premiums for quality
Mr Kud Sitango	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2006/023 - Re-commercialisation of the PNG pyrethrum industry and improving harvested yields in Australia
Mr Vincent Haguluha	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2001/037 - Improving the marketing system for fresh produce of the highlands of PNG
Ms Gorethy Dipsen	Papua New Guinea	FST/2004/050 - Value-adding to PNG agroforestry systems
Mr Nelson Simbiken	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2004/047 – Sustainable management of coffee green scales in Papua New Guinea
Mr Amos Uriningi	Papua New Guinea	ASEM/2004/077 - Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme for UNITECH, University of Lae, Papua New Guinea
Mr Tran Duy Long	Vietnam	CP/2002/086 - Improving postharvest quality of temperate fruits in Vietnam and Australia
Mr Nguyen Dat Thuan	Vietnam	CIM/1995/130 - Soybean variety adaptation and improvement in Vietnam and Australia
Ms Luong Thi Song Van	Vietnam	CP/2002/086 - Improving postharvest quality of temperate fruits in Vietnam and Australia
Mr Tran Lam Dong	Vietnam	FST/2006/087 - Improved site management for fast-growing plantations in Vietnam
Mr Pham Hung Cuong	Vietnam	LPS/2002/078 - Improved beef production in central Vietnam
Mr Tran Thanh Tung	Vietnam	ADP/2003/060 - Implementation of rodent management in intensive irrigated rice production systems in Indonesia and Vietnam
Mr Barry Ale	Samoa	HORT/2004/063 - Integrated pest management in a sustainable production system for Brassica crops in Fiji and Samoa
Mr Barnabas Keqa	Solomon Islands	LPS/2003/054 - Feeding village poultry in the Solomon Islands
Ms Ellen Iramu	Solomon Islands	HORT/2005/077 - Integrated crop management package for sustainable smallholder gardens in Solomon Islands

John Dillon Fellowship program update

John Dillon Fellowships provide a career development opportunity in Australia for outstanding mid-career agricultural scientists and economists from ACIAR partner countries. The aim is to develop the leadership skills of Fellows in the area of agricultural research management, agricultural policy and/or extension technologies through exposure to Australian agriculture across a range of best practice organisations involved in research, extension and/or policy-making. ACIAR has awarded 36 Fellowships since the program's inception in 2002. A group of 10 Fellows will visit Australia for a 5 week period in March-April 2008.

The 10 successful applicants are:

Dr Sorn San, Deputy Director, Department of Animal Health and Production, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Ms Marie-Vianney Melteras, Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Training Centre, Santo, Vanuatu

Mr Som Bunna, Deputy Head, Agricultural Engineering Program, Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Mr Catur Hermanto, Principal Scientist/ Project Leader, Indonesian Tropical Fruit Research Institute, Solok, West Sumatra, Indonesia

Mr Munawar Kazmi, Senior Scientific Officer, National Integrated Pest Management Program, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr Arnab Chakraborty, Team Leader, Professional Assistance for Development Action, New Delhi, India

Dr Gina Nilo, Chief Agriculturist, Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Quezon City, Philippines

Mr Peter Minimulu, Senior Aquaculture Development Officer, Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Goroka, Papua New Guinea

Mr Ezral Jamal, Head of Collaboration and Dissemination Division, Indonesian Centre for Agriculture Technology Assessment & Development, Bogor, Indonesia

Mr Tigor Butarbutar, Head, Forest Research Institute Kupang, INDONESIA

ACIAR Annual Report 2006-07

The ACIAR Annual Report for 2006-07 is now available. The Annual Report describes ACIAR's organisational performance during the 2006/07 Australian Financial Year. It is presented on a country basis, with information on the performance of major programs. Corporate information – including financials, staffing and publications is also included. The AOP may be downloaded from the ACIAR website (www.aciar.gov.au) or alternatively a hard copy can be requested from the ACIAR Communications program (comms@aciarc.gov.au).

Returnee small project awards

Just a reminder that small grants of up to \$10,000 are available for successful John Allwright Fellows, who have completed postgraduate studies and returned to relevant employment in their home country. The follow-on funding scheme provides for an activity which continues, or is related to, the research done within an ACIAR project associated with postgraduate work. These grants for former John Allwright Fellows are primarily aimed at developing small-scale research projects in the returnee's institution, which may catalyse longer-term support. Since 2000, over 40 of these awards have been made.

New ACIAR publications (September 2007 – January 2008)

ACIAR technical publications are also listed on our website at www.aciar.gov.au. Alumni can receive complimentary copies of our publications at any time by emailing comms@aciarc.gov.au

Project final reports and scoping studies are now available on the web

AH-2005-107	Food safety research in Indonesia: a scoping study and ACIAR's response
AH-2006-163	Assessment of zoonotic diseases in Indonesia
AH-2006-164	Future directions for animal health services in Indonesia
ASEM-2005-062	The vegetable industry in the Philippines
FST-2005-049	Mastotermes darwiniensis in the Lae area of PNG
LWR-2000-089	Permanent beds for irrigated rice–wheat and alternative cropping systems in north-west India and south-east Australia
LWR-2005-042	Scoping study to assess the technical and economic feasibility of wheat production in southern Bangladesh
PLIA-2005-148	Papua New Guinea coffee and cocoa policy linkages.
PLIA-2005-151	Philippine policy linkages scoping study
PLIA-2005-159	A constraints analysis of mango supply chain improvement in Pakistan
PLIA-2006-012 /1	Livestock health and vaccines in Cambodia and Laos
PLIA-2006-012 /2	Cattle and buffalo in Cambodia and Laos: The economic and policy environment for smallholders
PLIA-2006-180	Happy Seeder policy linkage scoping study
PLIA-2007-019	A review of the future prospects for the world coconut industry and past research in coconut production and product
SMAR-2007-042	Vegetable value chains in Eastern Indonesia—a focus on chilli
SMAR-2007-200/1	Securing the profitability of the Flores coffee industry
SMAR-2007-200/2	Securing the profitability of the Toraja coffee industry
SMAR-2007-209	The citrus market in Indonesia - an Eastern Indonesian perspective
SMAR-2007-228	Improving lobster grow-out and nutrition in West Nusa Tenggara
SMAR-2007-229	Options for Teak Industry Development in South-East Sulawesi

Partners magazine November 2007 - February 2008 is focused on climate change, looking at the impact on plant breeding, farm forestry, native grasslands and water use. It also contains articles on rice quality and fertiliser use.

CP12 Working with ACIAR now and in the future: ACIAR's response to the results of a survey of international stakeholders. An independent semi-structured dialogue survey of key international ACIAR stakeholders

New projects under development September 2007 – January 2008

A number of projects are currently under development at ACIAR or have recently been approved for commencement. If you would like further information on particular projects, please contact the relevant ACIAR Research Program Manager (see www.aciar.gov.au for contact details).

PNG and Pacific Islands	
AH/2006/157	Animal health surveillance systems for PNG
ASEM/2006/127	Commercial sector/smallholder partnerships for improving incomes in the oil palm and cocoa industries in Papua New Guinea
FIS/2007/116	Improving resilience and adaptive capacity of fisheries dependent communities in Solomon Islands
FST/2006/048	Processing of <i>Canarium indicum</i> nuts: adapting and refining techniques to benefit farmers in the South Pacific
FST/2006/088	Promoting diverse fuelwood production systems in Papua New Guinea
FST/2006/120	Increasing downstream value adding in PNG's forest and wood products industry
FST/2007/020	Improving silvicultural and economic outcomes for community timber plantations in the Solomon Islands by interplanting with <i>Flueggea flexuosa</i> and other Pacific agroforestry species
South East Asia	
AGB/2005/113	Structural adjustment implications of trade liberalisation in Vietnam
AGB/2006/115	Linking vegetable farmers with markets in West and Central Java, Indonesia
AH/2003/008	Improved feeding systems for more efficient beef cattle production in Cambodia
AH/2006/159	Best practice health and husbandry of cattle and buffalo in Lao PDR
AH/2006/166	Improving veterinary service delivery in a decentralised Indonesia
AH/2006/169	Improved bio-security for small scale commercial poultry production in Indonesia
ASEM/2006/130	Sustainable integrated development of agricultural systems in Cambodia and Australia
CIM/2007/215	Improving the reliability of rain-fed, rice/livestock-based farming systems in North East Thailand
CP/2006/112	Improving farmers' income through the safe production, utilisation and promotion of Vietnamese indigenous vegetables
CP/2006/170	Plant biosecurity: Technological research and training for improved pest diagnostics in Thailand and Australia
FIS/2006/098	Mud crab feeds and feeding strategies for industry growth in Vietnam and Australia
FST/2004/057	Improvement of the silvicultural management of Lao teak plantations, including by development and implementation of profitable interplanted teak-non timber forest product agroforestry systems
FST/2006/087	Improved site management for fast-growing plantations in Vietnam
FST/2007/052	Improving governance, policy and institutional arrangements to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (Indonesia)

SMAR/2007/193	Quality management to enhance effective supply chains for mangoes and rambutans in Nusa Tenggara Barat (Indonesia)
SMAR/2007/196	Market development for citrus from Eastern Indonesia
SMAR/2007/203	Integrated tropical passionfruit production systems in South Sulawesi (Indonesia)
SMAR/2007/216	Facilitating learning and adaptive-management for improved rice productivity in South and Southeast Sulawesi (Indonesia)
South Asia	
ADP/2007/062	Facilitating agricultural sector reforms in India: An assessment of regulatory and competition policy requirements
CIM/2006/177	Wheat improvement for waterlogging, salinity and microelement toxicities in acidic and sodic soils in India and Australia
CIM/2007/065	Sustainable wheat and maize production in Afghanistan
LWR/2006/072	Assessing the hydrologic and socio-economic impact of watershed development in Andhra Pradesh (India) and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (Australia)
North Asia	
ADP/2007/055	Improving the efficiency of land use change policy in China
LPS/2006/119	Integrated crop and dairy systems in Tibet Autonomous Region (China)
LWR/2007/191	Improving farmer livelihoods through efficient use of resources in crop-livestock systems in Gansu province, China

Do we have your contact details correct?

If not, please contact Sharon Harvey, email harvey@aciar.gov.au fax + 61 2 6217 0501