



# AusAID China Update

Summer/Autumn 2008

Development through partnership

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) works together with China to address development challenges.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** PM Rudd's visit ● Australian support for the Earthquake relief effort ● Activities in design for Health Facility ● Launch of HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program ● Environment projects close as ACEDP initiates policy landscape review ● and other news

Welcome to the latest issue of the AusAID China Update. It's been an eventful time since our last newsletter in February. May's earthquake in Sichuan was an unforeseen tragedy which has affected the lives of millions. The Australian Government has provided A\$2.75 million to support China's relief and recovery effort and will continue to work closely with the Chinese Government and the international community to support China in responding to the many challenges ahead.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visited China in April, with his wife Ms Therese Rein. AusAID staff accompanied Ms Rein to the Institute of Mental Health at Peking University, where she discussed the successful collaboration between Chinese and Australian mental health experts under the longstanding partnership between the Institute and Asia-Australia Mental Health. We are pleased that, as part of Australia's assistance for the Sichuan earthquake, these partners are now working to provide urgent psycho-social first aid to communities affected by the tragedy.

On the health front, the *China-Australia Health and HIV/AIDS Facility* is now designing its first round of health activities. And the China component of *HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program*, which will support harm reduction sites in Yunnan and Guangxi, is set to commence in July. In May, two environment projects – the Karst Rehabilitation Environment Project and the Qinghai Forestry Resources Management Project - came to a successful completion. All future environment activities will be channelled through The *Australia China Environment Development Program*, which has got off to a good start with the launch of a policy landscape review.

See inside this issue of the AusAID China Update for more information about these and other developments. The China Update will from now be a bi-annual publication, with an issue in the Summer/Autumn and another in the Winter/Spring. I hope you find it informative. Have an enjoyable summer!

Carolyn Bull  
Counsellor, AusAID China  
Summer/Autumn 2008



## GENERAL

### PM Kevin Rudd's visit

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visited China in April and met with key Chinese counterparts, including President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao. During his visit, Australia and China agreed to promote closer cooperation in responding to climate change by strengthening policy dialogue at the Ministerial level and developing concrete projects in areas of mutual benefit that will assist both countries in addressing climate change. AusAID's *Australia China Environment Development Program* (ACEDP) will be one of the vehicles for implementing some of this work. Mr Rudd also stopped by the embassy to open an art exhibition by Australian-Chinese artists.



*PM Kevin Rudd with the Australian Ambassador to China, Dr Geoff Raby (left), and a group of Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, at the opening of an art exhibition at the embassy in April.*

### Australian Support for the Sichuan Earthquake Relief Effort

The Australian people have been deeply moved by last month's devastating and tragic earthquake in Sichuan. The Australian Government was quick to offer condolences and assistance to our Chinese counterparts in the relief effort. The Federal Government is donating a total of AUD\$2,750,000 in aid.

AUD\$1 million of the funds are facilitating the Red Cross Society of China in their rescue and recovery operations and are going towards the costs of specialist cutting and lifting equipment. Emergency relief supplies worth AUD\$1 million have also been provided including tents, generators,

blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans and water tanks, to assist survivors.

Of the remaining AUD\$750,000, Australia will provide up to AUD\$500,000 to assist reconstruction planning under the World Bank's *Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery*. Under the Facility, a 'Joint Damage, Loss and Needs Assessment for Recovery and Reconstruction' will be conducted jointly with the Chinese authorities, based on their identified needs.

And AUD\$250,000 will support a joint China Centre for Disease Control and Asia-Australia Mental Health facility. The centre will train a network of over 1,000 mental health workers to implement simple effective psychological first aid measures for children and adult survivors of the disaster, as well as for the broader community.

The assistance will build on Australian expertise in the mental health field. It will also continue a longstanding partnership between Chinese and Australian mental health experts in developing community intervention strategies to deal with the psychological effects of disasters.

In addition to the Federal Government's assistance, State, Territory and local governments have donated over AUD\$2.35 million through the Australian Red Cross.



*A shipment of supplies from Australia arrives at Chengdu airport en route to Sichuan*

## HEALTH

### 30 Concept Notes Approved at the 2nd CAHHP PMC Meeting

The 2nd Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting of the *China-Australia Health and HIV/AIDS Program (CAHHP)* was successfully held in Beijing in March. The PMC discussed and approved 30 concept notes, which are now proceeding into the activity design phase (see below). These concept notes cover the priorities under the three themes of the CAHHP, including Health System Strengthening, Emerging Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention. The PMC also endorsed a number of documents which provide the strategic direction and management principles for CAHHP in the coming year, including the Quality Management Plan, the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the Capacity Development Strategy and the Annual Facility Plan (08/09).

PMC representatives in attendance included Dr Ren Minghui, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Health; Ms Wei Lai, First Secretary from MOFCOM; Dr Carolyn Bull, Counsellor, AusAID Beijing; and Ms Penelope Ngui, Australia Department of Health and Ageing. Australian and Chinese Senior Health Advisers, Mr Nie Jiangang and Dr Michael Fett, as well as Facility Manager Mr Victor Dong, participated as observers.

### Activity Design Workshop held for the Health Facility

The first activity design workshop for the *China-Australia Health and HIV/AIDS Facility (CAHHP)* was conducted successfully earlier in June in Beijing. The goal of the workshop was to take the concept papers, approved in March, to the next step in the design process. Hands-on technical guidance was provided to the implementing agencies on their draft designs by three Chinese health experts and the Australian and the Chinese Senior Health Advisers, Dr Michael Fett and Mr Nie Jiangang.

The representatives from the implementing agencies – including national and provincial health institutes and associations – were also welcomed to comment on each others designs which lead to some very interesting

and productive discussions. A general session was also held with presentations on project design, gender, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) given by the health experts and advisers and the Facility Management Team (FMT).

Approximately 40 participants attended the workshop, including Ms Kirsty Dudgeon, First Secretary, AusAID Beijing; Mr Victor Dong, Facility Manager; Mr Chris Morgan, the Facility Coordinator from the Burnet Institute; and the Australian and the Chinese Senior Health Advisers, Dr Michael Fett and Mr Nie Jiangang. Feedback from participants on the workshop was very positive. For more information on CAHHP please visit the website: [www.cahhf.org](http://www.cahhf.org)

### UNAIDS HIV Adviser



From April, AusAID began funding a Senior HIV Advisor position at UNAIDS in Beijing. Peter Lunding (left), who will work in this role for two years, will primarily focus on prevention activities, in particular on most-at-risk populations, including injecting drug users, men who have sex with men (MSM), and migrant populations. He will also work on business sector cooperation.

After working as Associate Professor in political science at the University of Latvia Peter joined the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime in 1999. He was posted in Bangkok, where he worked on issues such as civic advocacy, illicit drugs and HIV, and comprehensive development programmes for communities depending on illicit drugs. Following his posting in Thailand he has worked for UNFPA and UNDP mainly focusing on HIV related issues, such as in school education programmes on HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health issues, the impact of HIV on human capital, and HIV communication strategies in Asia and organizations for people living with HIV. Peter has also worked for the United Nations Democracy Fund, where his work primarily focused on developing project guidelines and evaluation systems. Peter brings substantial experience in programme development and implementation, with a particular emphasis on public policies and services. Peter is a national of Denmark and his mother tongue is Danish. He also

speaks English, and has knowledge of Chinese and German.

You can contact Peter at [lundingp@unaids.org](mailto:lundingp@unaids.org) or by phone on (8610) 8532 2226 ext.108.

### **Ms Rein's Visit to the Institute of Mental Health, Peking University**

Ms Therese Rein, wife of the PM Kevin Rudd, visited the Institute of Mental Health at Peking University during the PM's visit in April. Accompanied by Dr Carolyn Bull, Counsellor, AusAID, Ms Rein met with Dr Yu Xin, the director of the institute. Dr Yu briefed Ms Rein on the 20 years of successful collaboration between the institute and Australian health institutions, including Asia Australia Mental Health, a consortium of St.Vincent's Mental Health and the University of Melbourne's Department of Psychiatry. Dr Yu said that the institute has learnt some valuable lessons from Australia in comprehensive mental health management which they have adapted for the Chinese context. These are evident in the implementation of a program which aims to establish a national management mechanism and network for community-based psychosis prevention and rehabilitation, and provide community service for patients. Over the three years of cooperation, the Australian and Chinese partners have developed a model for successful collaboration. The population covered by the program over the three years is 43 million across 60 model sites. Ms Rein congratulated the achievements made to date from the successful collaboration between the institute and the Australian health institutions and noted the importance of public health education and training for the mental health practitioners who work at grass root and local levels.



*Ms Rein with Dr Yu Xin at the Institute of Mental Health at Peking University*

### **AusAID Launches New Harm Reduction Program: HAARP**

On April 23, 2008, AusAID successfully launched the *HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program* (HAARP), and the program website in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where government representatives from around the world gathered for a UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting. HAARP is an eight year, AUD\$59 million regional program involving governments, multilateral agencies, civil society organisations, and drug user networks, to reduce the spread of HIV associated with drug use among men and women in South East Asia and China. The China component of HAARP has been designed and is due to commence in early July. It will be implemented through the National Centre for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control and support harm reduction sites in Yunnan and Guangxi. Strengthening support to cross-border sites will be a priority in future years.

Speakers at the launch supported the objectives and principles of HAARP, highlighting the need for the involvement of drug-users, the need to address stigma and discrimination, and the importance of a regional approach in terms of scaling up harm reduction responses. One of the key issues raised was the need for coordination, which was followed by the announcement from the Netherlands Government expressing a willingness to co-finance the Country Flexible Program in Vietnam. Representatives from a range of governmental and civil society organisations, as well as regional agencies, attended the launch. Speakers included:

- Mean Chhivun, Director, National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology & STI's (NCHADS), Cambodia
- Thi Hai Oanh Khuat, Vietnam Civil Society Partnership Platform on AIDS
- Paul Bekkers, HIV/AIDS Ambassador for the Netherlands
- Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS
- Phillippe Allen, Minister Counsellor, AusAID Bangkok

*For highlights from each of the speakers please visit the HAARP website at [www.haarp-online.org](http://www.haarp-online.org).*

## XJHAPAC Experience Sharing Conference

The 3rd XJHAPAC Activity Support Facility (ASF) Experience Sharing Conference was held at the end of May. Over 170 representatives from a range of organisations and projects participated in the conference, including the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Justice, the National Population and Family Planning Commission, UNAIDS, WHO, UNODC, the Clinton Foundation, and regional government agencies.

At the conference, experiences and stories were shared on a number of themes: the care and rehabilitation of drug users and their involvement in harm reduction activities; the engagement of religious leaders in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and related issues; the mobilisation of communities to care for people living with HIV/AIDS; and the promotion of condoms within local communities at risk of HIV/AIDS.

Participants also flew to Urumqi, Yining and Kashgar to visit project sites and witnessed how the project activities were carried out and how much they were welcomed by local people. Preliminary feedback from participants was this conference was very well organised and very beneficial to HIV/AIDS workers.



Participants watching a HIV/AIDS knowledge competition organised in the community.

For more information on XJHAPAC please see the website: <http://www.xjhacpac.mdi-international.com.au/>

## XJHAPAC Experience Presented in Goa

Ms Dilibaier Yasen, adviser from the *China-Australia Xinjiang HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project* (XJHAPAC) presented the

project's experience from its harm reduction approach in Xinjiang at the First Asian Consultation on the Prevention of HIV Related to Drug Use. The conference was held in Goa, India, in January 2008.



Dilibaier Yasen from XJHAPAC sharing harm reduction approaches from Xinjiang in Goa, India, earlier this year.

## ENVIRONMENT

### ACEDP Update

The *Australia China Environment Development Program* (ACEDP) has commissioned a Policy Landscape Review that has two broad objectives – to establish a policy baseline for monitoring ACEDP activities at the program level and to identify diversified funding mechanisms that better respond to the need of clients in both countries. Preliminary findings will be presented to Focus Groups in Australia and China and feedback sought. The final review report will be tabled the second Meeting of the Joint Australia China High-Level Roundtable.

The ACEDP 'Corporate Exchange Program' is funding a high level visit by the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research to Australia in June 08 to explore opportunities for sustained collaboration with a number of potential Australian counterparts.

The ACEDP Social Impact and Gender Equity Package aims to strengthen capacities of Chinese program core partners at mainstreaming gender equity and public participation strategies in their

portfolios. A design mission commenced in May. It sought feedback from Chinese agencies and identified suitable Chinese subcontractor(s) to train and mentor Chinese agencies.



*In-Australia Lake Tai Study Tour Participants*

In May 2008, ACEDP facilitated a training & retreat workshop for PCO staff and partner agencies staff to present and discuss the ACEDP M&E Framework, Communication and Engagement Strategy and the Social Impact and Gender Framework. The approach was to inform partner agencies of these key strategic documents and to arrange further awareness sessions as required at an individual level.



*SFA Delegates and ACEDP Officers during In-Australia Scoping Mission to Towra Point Nature Reserve*

Two Australian Study Tours were successfully completed in March. Both were part of activity design missions – one for the 'Lake Tai Feasibility Study' and one for the 'Wetlands Management Feasibility Study'. Approximately 20 delegates from the National Development & Reform Commission, Local Government and the State Forestry Administration visited Australian federal and state government agencies to study Australian experiences

with environmental governance and integrated river basin management and apply these to the China.

For more information on ACEDP please visit the website: <http://www.acedp-partnership.org>

## **The Completion of Two AusAID Environment Projects Marks the End of an Era**

The months of April and May 2008 saw the closing of two environment projects between Australia and China, that have been ongoing for more than 6 years. Both have both been completed successfully and with many great accomplishments.

### **Karst Rehabilitation Environment Project (KERP)**

In the karst mountains of Xincheng County, Guangxi a monument now stands to commemorate the remarkable achievements of the *Karst Rehabilitation Environment Project* (KERP). A closing ceremony on 29 April 2008, including the planting of a friendship tree and a lion dance marked the successful implementation of a sustainable model for restoring the degraded mountain areas of Xincheng and for alleviating poverty in the region. The ceremony was attended by villagers, Guangxi provincial, township and county government officials, and representatives from the Guangxi PADO, MOFCOM and AusAID.



*The team at the closing ceremony for KERP*

KERP was designed in 1999 and commenced in early 2001. It used a community based approach to restore and protect the environment whilst increasing incomes of rural communities, targeting both the household and institutional levels.

The participatory approach of KERP has engendered community ownership and pride in the project. One village representative commented “we have now realised the linking of the village environment, our living, poverty and the development of future generations, so we are all willing to participate in the implementation of the project”.



*Dragon dance at the KERP closing ceremony*

He also commented on the remarkable achievements resulting from KERP including “bare mountains getting greener, all households have clean energy and water, incomes of families have increased and the women are now experts of silkworm and animal rearing. The village road is improved, the community has its own management group which is playing a more and more important role and the awareness of democratic management has been obviously raised. All this has made a good foundation for a harmonious community, villagers are richer and more confident of their future and importantly, awareness of environment protection has been greatly increased.”

As a result of the more than 80 demonstration Sub-Villages assisted by KERP, a development model has been designed, tested and refined which is effective, balanced and can be used widely,

not just in the karst areas of China, but in other development situations.

AusAID expresses special thanks to Mr Chen Shenchang for his dedication and hard work throughout the life of the *Karst Environment Rehabilitation Project*.

### **Qinghai Forestry Resources Management Project**

May 23, 2008 marked the official close of the 6-year *Qinghai Forestry Resources Management Project* which began in May 2002. A closing ceremony was held in Xining on Monday 20 May, which was also the first day of national mourning for the victims of the tragic earthquake. Although a solemn event, the ceremony was an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable achievements and lessons learned over the life of the project and to congratulate and acknowledge the enthusiasm and efforts of all those involved in the project’s implementation.

Qinghai’s environment plays a vital role in maintaining the ecology of the whole country and the region. Central and local governments have made a great effort to protect this ecological system, and have already put in place a number of national environment protection policies and programs. The Qinghai Forestry Resources Management Project is now also a major part of these efforts.

In six years, QFRMP achieved much towards meeting its goal “to improve management of land resources, thereby contributing to environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation in Qinghai Province”.

Significantly, the project has achieved its objectives of building the capacity for improved management of vegetation, soil and water resources; establishing a community-based approach to natural resources management; and reducing extensive and serious soil erosion within the Huangshui River catchment area. Satellite images of the demonstration areas have shown significant recovery of degraded grassland, forest and shrub-land over the life of the project. The cooperation between the Forestry Bureaus and the interest from the Provincial and National levels were also major factors contributing to the success of QFRMP.

The principles of natural resources and land use management, community participation and integrated management at all levels are principles that can be applied more broadly. We are pleased to learn that QFRMP low cost environmental rehabilitation practices and participatory models are now being considered for adoption and replication by World Bank and ADB/GEF projects.

We hope, too, that the lessons learnt through QFRMP may be taken up for further policy development through the Australia China Environment Development Program (ACEDP).

A project is only as good as the people who do the work. AusAID would therefore like to thank Director Li San Dan of the Qinghai Forestry Bureau, the team leaders, Mr Roland van Asch, Mr Hugh Milner and Mme Zhang Li, the Project Director Mr Bob Galland, the County Forestry Bureaus and PADOs in Ping'an, Huzhu, Ledu and Huangzhong and all other Chinese and Australian officials, villagers and experts involved in the project, for their hard work and commitment.

## GOVERNANCE



Second year pupils in Shangshijia Primary School funded by SAS in Huangzhong County, Qinghai Province

## CAGP Conference

An international conference called "Deepening Economic System Reform to Promote Balanced Urban-rural Development" was held in January 2008. The conference was organized by the National Development and Reform Commission and sponsored by the China Australia Governance Program (CAGP). The Conference aimed to summarize and share the preliminary research results of the project, identify key issues in the design

of a policy framework and to promote coordinated and balanced urban-rural development. International and domestic experts gave presentations on labour mobility, land transfer, and public service delivery. Representatives from 9 ministries under the State Council attended.

The Australian Ambassador, Dr Geoff Raby addressed the opening session. He pointed out that the Australian Government's support for this event reflects Australia's longstanding commitment to work with China to address significant development challenges facing both China and the region. At the closing session, AusAID Counsellor, Dr Carolyn Bull, highlighted the importance of balanced and well-coordinated urban-rural development to ensure that China continues to enjoy the rapid economic growth that has taken place since reform began in 1978.

For more information on CAGP, please visit the website: <http://www.cagp-online.org/english/>

## Promoting Australian Scholarships in Qinghai



The Australian Scholarships promotional workshop in Qinghai.

In March, AusAID and MOFCOM jointly held a workshop in Qinghai Province to promote Australian Scholarships. Government representatives from nine western provinces and officials from local government departments in Qinghai attended the workshop.

Visit the *AusAID China* website for more information on all AusAID activities in China: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/china/default.cfm>

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