



AusAID China Update

Summer, 2007

Development through partnership

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

HIGHLIGHTS: 25 years of Australia-China Development Cooperation ● Australia's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS visits China ● Ambulances improve access to rural clinics ● Australia-China Environment Development Program mobilisation ● plus news on Governance, Health and Environment programs

Welcome to the third edition of AusAID's *China Update*.

AusAID China has been very busy throughout the spring period. As well as celebrating the 25th anniversary of Australian-Chinese development cooperation, we were glad to welcome a number of high level visitors, including Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer; Australian Health Minister Tony Abbott; and Australia's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and AusAID Deputy Director General, Annmaree O'Keeffe. See inside for details of these visits.

AusAID launched two major policy papers, on Anti-Corruption and Gender, which builds upon the White Paper on Australian Overseas Aid, launched in April 2006. Both policies will inform the development of all new AusAID programs. Links to the papers are provided below.

In June, we sadly bid farewell to Counsellor Beth Delaney, who has returned to AusAID in Canberra. For the last three years Beth has been a valued colleague who has made a significant contribution to the Australian-Chinese development partnership. We wish her and her family all the best!

I hope you find this AusAID China Update an informative and enjoyable read.

Peter Jensen
Counsellor, AusAID China

Summer 2007



GENERAL

25 years of Australia-China Development Cooperation

Over 100 representatives from Chinese government ministries, the Australian Embassy, Australia's Youth Ambassadors for Development Program and AusAID projects in China attended a function to celebrate 25 years of development cooperation. The function was held in Beijing on March 27 co-hosted by the Australian Government's Development Agency, AusAID, and the Ministry of Commerce. Annmaree O'Keeffe, Deputy Director General of Australia's Agency for International Development, AusAID, commented that 'success has been achieved because we have all worked together building the partnership between our two Governments, and fostering a sense of partnership - based on common objectives - among all those involved'. On the future direction of Australia's programs Ms O'Keeffe noted 'our partnership will be focused on supporting equity in China's development and addressing the factors that underpin poverty and less on direct poverty alleviation'.



Annmaree O'Keeffe, AusAID's Deputy Director General, meets Yu Jianhua, Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, with Peter Jensen, Counsellor AusAID China, at the 25th Anniversary Celebration (Photo: Douglas Kanter)

Minister Downer's visit to China

In April, Mr Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited Beijing and Shanghai. In Beijing, he met Secretary General of the State Council Hua Jianmin, Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, and discussed our expanding bilateral relationship and introduced a new focus on

common interests in cooperation on the environment. Mr Downer announced an AusAID contribution of \$51million over the next five years for environment and health programs, as well as the nomination of former Secretary of the Department of Environment and Heritage, Roger Beale, to sit on the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development. Mr Downer also raised Australia and China's roles in addressing strategic international and regional challenges. In Shanghai, at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, Mr Downer gave a speech on regional issues, where he responded to questions from senior Chinese officials on security cooperation with Japan, Australia's approach to human rights, and the benefits of an FTA. At a breakfast with the Australian Chamber of Commerce he announced the tender for the design of Australia's Expo 2010 Shanghai pavilion.

Australia expands efforts to combat corruption

Australia recently launched the Tackling Corruption for Growth and Development policy which will guide Australia's Development support for partner countries as they strive to make the reforms needed to reduce corruption and improve their governance. The policy builds on Australia's long-term investments in anti-corruption and governance in the region, including programs with an estimated value of \$645 million in 2006-07, and reflects lessons learned from decades of experience in aid delivery. This anti-corruption policy outlines three elements to combat corruption in the region: building constituencies for anti-corruption reform; reducing opportunities for corruption and changing incentives for corrupt behaviour. See more on the website: [Tackling Corruption for Growth and Development](#).

Intake 19 of the Australian Youth Ambassadors arrive in July

In July, 25 young Australians will arrive in Beijing and start in their roles as Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) in host organisations in various parts of the country. Most assignments, in the environment, governance and health sectors, will be for 12 months. The AYAD program began in 1998 and aims to

strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and the countries in the Asia Pacific region and to make a positive contribution to development. For more about the program visit the [AYAD website](#).

GOVERNANCE

NDRC & DRC partners with Australia's Productivity Commission

From April 14-25 a senior delegation from the NDRC (National Development and Reform Commission), the DRC (Development Research Centre) of the State Council, and the SIC (State Information Centre) undertook a working visit to Australia funded through AusAID's China-Australia Governance Program. The delegation explored what China could learn from Australia in order to strengthen its processes for economic and social policy-making in China. The visit provided an opportunity to understand how the Australian Productivity Commission's undertakes its independent "Public Inquiry" and advisory approaches to policy development and the benefits of independent policy assessments.

SAS monitoring visit to Guizhou

Peter Jensen, Counsellor AusAID Beijing, together with Ma Zhigang, Senior Program Officer, paid a visit to Guizhou to monitor the Small Activities Scheme (SAS) during May. They also took the chance to visit the Wuling Mountains Rural Development Project which was a joint program between AusAID and WFP, completed two years ago.



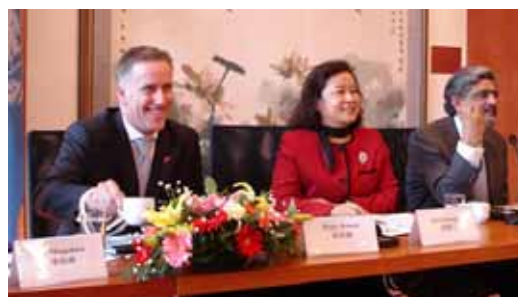
Children from Wuling



Ma Zhigang, Senior Program Officer, AusAID Beijing, interviews village party secretary

AusAID participates in International Women's Day Event in Beijing

The UN team in China organised an event on International Women's Day to raise public awareness of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms Discrimination Against Women. Representatives from UN agencies, donors, research institutes and other celebrities attended. Peter Jensen, Counsellor of AusAID Beijing, informed the attendees that, as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the China Gender Facility, AusAID has contributed A\$500,000 to the facility to support advocacy and research projects to promote gender equality in China. He also highlighted the progress that has been made by the facility in influencing policy and raising awareness.



Peter Jensen, Counsellor AusAID China, Zou Xiaoqiao, Director General of ACUF, and Khalid Malik, UNDP Resident Representative, at the International Women's Day event

Mr Jensen also introduced AusAID's new Gender Policy for the Australian aid program, which was launched on March 1 by Minister Downer. The key priorities in the policy are to integrate gender equality into all new country and regional strategies and to ensure that gender equality issues are adequately addressed and

resourced. The policy is available for viewing on the [AusAID website](#).

ANCP Cluster Evaluation

In May and June, Wang Jun, Senior Program Officer, AusAID Beijing, accompanied an evaluation mission visiting three ANCP (AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program) projects in China:

- the China Craniofacial Clinics Development Program in Shanghai, managed by the Australian Cranio-Maxillo Facial Foundation;
- the Team Capacity Building for Cataract Surgery in Jiangxi, managed by the Fred Hollows Foundation; and
- the HIV Prevention Among Vulnerable Groups in Tibet, managed by the Burnet Institute.

AusAID's ANCP provided around A\$25 million in funding in 2006-07 through Australian NGOs to community development and poverty alleviation activities.



Wang Jun, Senior Program Officer, AusAID Beijing, (far left) and the ANCP Cluster Evaluation team.

HEALTH

Health Minister Abbott visits China

Australia's Health Minister, Tony Abbott, visited China in April to sign a new 3 year action plan to cooperate on key health issues. The new AusAID Integrated Health and HIV/AIDS Facility, due to commence in July, will support this action plan by providing assistance for HIV/AIDS, other emerging infectious diseases and health system strengthening. The Facility will run for 5 years with an Australian contribution of A\$25 million.



Australian Health Minister, Tony Abbott, and then Chinese Health Minister, Gao Qiang

Australia's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS visits China

Australia's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and AusAID Deputy Director General Annmaree O'Keeffe visited China from March 26-30. Highlights of the visit included meeting with Vice Minister Wang Longde to discuss the private sector's role in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and hosting the Australia-China senior level dialogue on HIV/AIDS in the Mekong. Field visits to the Yunnan Police Academy and Jinning drop-in centre demonstrated the achievements under the Asia Regional HIV/AIDS project, particularly in supporting the role of the law enforcement sector in harm reduction activities.



Australia's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and AusAID Deputy Director General Annmaree O'Keeffe

UNICEF and Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS

On 17 April, UNICEF Australia/China and the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS China office (GBC) held an 'Australia China Business Forum on Children and HIV/AIDS' supported by AusAID and the Australian Embassy. The Forum focussed on eight actions that the private sector could implement in their operations to reduce the impact and burden on the Chinese

workforce of HIV and AIDS. A publication titled *Eight Corporate Responses to Children, Young People and AIDS: a Win-Win Guide* was launched ahead of a global distribution to companies doing business in China. For a copy of the publication please contact the UNICEF China office: beijing@unicef.org.

Ambulances improve access to rural clinics

Families in Damxung, Nimu, Linzhou and Qushui counties of Lhasa Municipality now have better access to emergency medical care since the Tibet Health Services Support Program (THSSP) provided 14 township clinics with ambulances in March.



Ambulances 'decorated' for the hand over ceremony held on 21 March in Lhasa.

It is a sad fact that women in labour frequently cannot access the care needed to ensure the health of mother and baby simply because their families cannot find or pay for transport. Many families live far from health facilities and the terrain is rugged. Through the provision of these vehicles, THSSP is contributing to the achievement of the Lhasa Municipal Health Bureau's objectives of improving access to health services for rural families. Health managers from municipal, county and township levels showed their commitment to this valuable resource by signing a detailed agreement for ambulance running costs and maintenance.



THSSP Team Leader, Cath Barker, hands over an ambulance key to Mr Samden, Director of Qushui County Health Bureau.

Xinjiang HIV/AIDS project receives international coverage

Representatives from the Xinjiang HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project attended the International Harm Reduction conference in Warsaw May 2007 and presented the DVD the "Story of Guangming Street". This is a particularly moving account of the life of the outreach workers (ORW) in the Yining City needle and syringe program (NSP). The project was also recently recognised by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation who filmed a story featuring Australian Team Leader Kim Wheeler which covered the project's achievements and challenges in HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Xinjiang. The documentary was aired throughout the Asia Pacific on Australia Network and in Australia in May.

Rapid Assessment training for HIV control

In support of skills development of Shannan CDC HIV Unit staff, and staff from four county level health bureaus, the THSSP ran a workshop in Shannan on 'Rapid Assessment (RA) Techniques'. Classroom work was followed by a rapid assessment, conducted by workshop participants, looking at HIV risk among entertainment establishment workers in Tse Dang city. A total of 200 entertainment establishment workers were interviewed via in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The final phase of the workshop involved the analysis of results and identification of messages and communication approaches for each high-risk group—entertainment establishment workers and clients. The RA workshop participants identified this method of interpersonal communication as the best approach to effectively reach entertainment establishment workers in Tse Dang. Women will be encouraged to access government health services for STI examinations. Owners of entertainment establishments will be encouraged to persuade women working in their establishments to use condoms and have regular STI examinations.



Workshop participants work together to analyse information collected via in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

Xianyang Health Project closes

Peter Jensen, Counsellor for Development Cooperation and Mr Chen Ning Director MOFCOM, attended the closing ceremony for the Xianyang Integrated Rural Health Project, a five-year project with a total Australian contribution of \$13.5 million. The project strengthened the capacity of the Xianyang Prefecture health system to deliver effective, responsive and accessible health services to the rural poor in Xianyang's five national poverty counties - Chunhua, Xunyi, Binxian, Changwu and Yongshou. A key achievement was the development of an Infection Control Manual which has since been adopted province-wide.

ENVIRONMENT

Australia contributes to CCICED

During his recent visit in April, Mr Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs, announced Australian Government's contribution of \$1 million over the next five years to support the work of the CCICED (China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development) through support for task force, policy study, Annual General Meeting, Round Table Meeting, Annual Policy Report and dissemination activities. Mr Downer has also nominated Roger

Beale, former Secretary of the Department of Environment and Heritage, to sit on this important council. This nomination has been approved by the Chinese Government.

AusAID participates in the Yangtze Forum

The Second Yangtze Forum was held in Changsha of Hunan Province on April 15-17. The Forum, themed with "The Yangtze and Lake Dongting", focuses on flood safety, ecological safety, drinking water safety and sustainable development. It consisted of a Summit Forum (Opening and Plenary Session) and five parallel Sub-forums. Beth Delaney, Counsellor of AusAID, Beijing delivered a speech at the Plenary Session talking about the Australian government (AusAID) funded Project – Yangtze Flood Control and Management Project, the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Roadmap Activity and the future direction of the Australia-China development cooperation in the environment sector.

Australia-China Environment Development Program mobilisation

The Australia-China Environment Development Program mobilised in July. GHD has been appointed as the Managing Contractor for the program. Key program partners – the Department of Environment and Water, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Water Resources, the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), and the State Forestry Administration – will soon be consulted to agree on its annual planning process.

Water Entitlements and Trading project update

The Water Entitlements and Trading project continues its work in developing a water entitlement and trading framework for managing water resources in China. The working group has presented its work to date to its Chinese reference panel and the Australian Technical Director, Tom Vanderbyl, during a meeting at the Ministry of Water Resources. Mr Vanderbyl and the working group travelled to Inner Mongolia and then to Zhejiang to visit pilot sites where the policies and systems being

developed under the project will be trialled. Also in March, Professor Stuart Bunn and Dr Cassie James presented a workshop at MWR on how to identify and provide environmental flows in rivers.



Dr Shen Dajun, Chinese Team Leader and Tom Vanderbyl, Australian Technical Director

Water and Agricultural Management in Hebei Project closes

The Independent Completion Review (ICR) of the Water and Agricultural Management in Hebei Project (WAMH) was conducted in May. The ICR team concluded that the WAMH had provided counterpart agencies with skills, tools and experience needed to support water management measures in agriculture and adopt more participatory approaches to irrigation delivery that recognise the important role local people can play in decision-making. The team also identified lessons learned in design, training and Community Participation Fund, and made valuable recommendations for the new environment program.

SEPA Minister Zhou Shengxian meets Australian Ambassador

The Minister of SEPA (The State Environmental Protection Administration of China), Zhou Shengxian met Australian Ambassador Dr. Geoff Raby on March 15 in Beijing. The two exchanged views on cooperation in the realm of environmental protection. At the meeting, Zhou welcomed full cooperation in environmental protection and establishing environmental mechanisms.



Dr. Geoff Raby, Australian Ambassador, and Zhou Shengxian, Minister of SEPA.

AusAID Independent Cluster Evaluation for ALERMP, KERP and IMGMP

In July, AusAID will undertake an Independent Cluster Evaluation (ICE) of 3 projects in China: the ALERMP Environmental Rehabilitation and Management Project (AELRMP), the Karst Environmental Rehabilitation Project (KERP), and the Inner Mongolia Grassland Management Project (IMGMP). Bruce Trangmar, the ICE Team Leader, will be joined on the evaluation mission by Dr Zheng Baohua, a community development specialist, and Dr Ian Teese, an M&E specialist. The purposes of the ICE will be:

- To help to develop a better understanding of the success and failures in implementing the 3 projects;
- To identify lessons learned through an assessment of each individual project and comparison of 3 projects;
- To feed into the Annual Planning process for the new Environment Program with the results of the cluster evaluation.

It is expected that the ICE will enable AusAID, activity implementing agencies and other government departments to make the fullest use of the lessons learned for the formulation, design and implementation of future activities of the new ACEDP.

Visit the [AusAID China website](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/china/default.cfm) for more information on all AusAID activities in China:

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/china/default.cfm>

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