



**AFAP**

AFAP is a not for profit organisation concerned with emergency relief operations, sustainable international development and the eradication of poverty worldwide.

AFAP promotes self-reliant community development projects in the areas of:

- institution building;
- health;
- education;
- literacy;
- agriculture;
- environmental protection;
- hospital rehabilitation;
- village improvement;
- disaster relief; and
- small industry development

which emerge from the aspirations of the local people.

AFAP supports projects that are environmentally and economically sustainable, gender balanced and supportive of the integrity and self-determination of local communities.

AFAP aims to improve the status of women, children, ethnic minorities, handicapped and other disadvantaged or marginalised sections of society.

AFAP is a membership organisation, which provides opportunities for Australians who wish to volunteer their services in supporting our overseas development programs.

**AFAP aims to:**

Promote the advancement of education and the relief of poverty and sickness through innovative and appropriate community based development throughout the developing world where needed.

**Tax Deductible Donations**

Donations to AFAP of \$2.00 or more are Tax Deductible.

## A view of East Timor

by IAN RHIND - 13 May 2001

I first traveled, on behalf of Project Timor, a non-profit building company, to East Timor in May 2000 and spent 12 days in Dili. The principal reason for this visit was to evaluate the building methods and structures used and understand what was needed to assist in rebuilding housing in East Timor.

Before leaving Perth I had been asked if I could deliver some donated surgical instruments to a priest in Kampong Baru, Comoro, on the outskirts of Dili. On speaking with Father Edmundo, he asked if I could assist in rebuilding some of the 206 houses destroyed in the immediate parish. I had no tools and no equipment, and there was an almost complete lack of any building implements, but we decided to commence anyway by laying two 60 square metre concrete pads.



### Construction in Kampong Baru, East Timor

Timber for formwork was created from old window frames found thrown away in some bush. Bags of cement were discretely "acquired" along with a large roll of black plastic, which was used as a waterproof membrane under the concrete. Compaction was achieved by about 10 workers stamping the ground with lengths of 8" x 2" timber. A concrete mixer was borrowed for the cost of 10 bags of cement and river sand was carted in for aggregate. Concreting tools were made from timber off-cuts and string lines every metre or so were used to achieve a level finish. Not one worker in the team had used a cement mixer or had laid concrete before this day.

The women carted most of the rock. We had only two shovels and no wheelbarrows. All the rock was carted in by



hand. All the concrete was carted by bucket. And yet, at the end of that first day, we had laid the foundation for the first house built to an Australian building standard in East Timor.

How things have changed. Twelve months later and with the assistance of AFAP and other partners, such as the Lions Clubs of WA, Shell and Woodside, the WA Woodturners Association, the WA branch of the Maritime Union, the Australian army and many others, Project Timor has:

- \_ Supervised and provided training for 70 East Timorese;
- \_ Provided training programs in building and construction resulting in the completion of houses, which are rented out, providing the local community with a sustainable cash flow. The homes were built using local indigenous materials (thatch and bebak) and mud brick and rammed-earth wall houses;
- \_ Established a local medical centre;
- \_ Renovated the local government school which accommodates 1200 children and provided all the desks, chairs and blackboards;



#### **New Classroom in Kampong Baru, East Timor**

- \_ Implemented a major street cleaning and garbage removal program and provided assistance with the provision of water to the local school;
- \_ Provided equipment and expertise in the establishment of a number of small business operations (fishing, tyre repair, brick laying);
- \_ Established nine small cooperatives in building and agriculture;
- \_ Established one major warehouse and five smaller 'loan stores' for tools and equipment for the use of the local community, for future business and personal use.
- \_ Implemented and provided instruction for adult English language courses

At present, one of our partners, Skills Across the World have two trades people working in Kampong Baru and are continuing with the work of assisting this community.



## The FSPI Network

AFAP is a member of the FSPI (the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International) network, which was formed by independent organisations in 1990.

FSPI's network of affiliates work together with their respective governments and community groups in a broad range of community development initiatives, focusing on primary health care, education, community-based natural resource management (terrestrial and marine), capacity building, local institutional building, conflict management, and sustainable enterprise development.

### FSPI member organisations are committed to:

- Advocating and fostering human dignity and sustainable development
- Striving for world justice and peace through programs of social, cultural and economic development, relief and reconstruction
- Continuing to work at institution building and the development of self reliance
- Building public awareness and understanding as a necessary prerequisite for humanitarian assistance
- Initiating and continuing dialogue with government and public bodies on public policy issues of importance to the member organisations
- Being accountable to the individual constituencies, partners in development and the people we strive to assist
- Respecting the diverse perspectives and methods of operation of member agencies as a source of strength and creativity
- Working in a spirit of collaboration as the most effective way to achieve common objectives
- Encouraging professional competence, ethical practices and quality services
- Advocating and fostering human dignity and sustainable development

## AFAP Sponsors FSPI Network Annual Conference

The Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) Network held its Annual Conference this May at St. Vincent's Clinic in Sydney. AFAP hosted the Conference, welcoming representatives from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, East Timor, United Kingdom and the United States, as well as partners from Zimbabwe, Nepal and Vietnam. The Conference was organised by AFAP and the FSPI Regional Secretariat, which is headed up by Rex Horoi, former Solomon Islands Ambassador to the United Nations, Canada and the United States. Ms. Patti O'Neil from the Government of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade facilitated the meeting.



Together, the FSPI network members discussed current areas of need and future plans for collective work in the area of community development. Members identified organisational capacity building, efficient network communications and sustainable financing as key focus areas. Other issues discussed included developing a marketing plan for the FSPI network to "sell" itself to regional and international stakeholders, globalising the FSPI network while retaining its uniquely Pacific identity, "professionalising" the network through sound internal systems and procedures, and developing innovative niche areas that will build upon FSPI's 35 years of grassroots community development experience. Finally, FSPI members committed to developing a code of conduct for the network to promote good governance.

The Annual Conference also resulted in a decision to move the FSPI Regional Secretariat from its current location in Port Vila, Vanuatu, to Suva, Fiji, by the end of 2001.



## VIET NAM

### Than Son Integrated Rural Development Project

The incredible beauty and rich cultural heritage of Viet Nam's mountainous North are an invaluable national asset. Sadly, the remoteness of this region also means that its people are isolated from many economic opportunities and have to battle with persistent health problems. In rugged Phu Tho Province, local people are working to improve the quality of their lives and create opportunities for the future.



With the co-operation of local authorities and assistance from AFAP Vietnam, farmers from five communes in Phu Tho Province are participating in agricultural training and taking advantage of a new credit scheme which provides them with much needed capital.



Persistent health problems in the region have had an adverse affect on people's ability to work. Therefore provision of medical equipment, supplies and training for local medical staff is a vital aspect of this project.

The future is already looking brighter for the people of Phu Tho Province. It is anticipated that the improvements in opportunities, health, farming techniques and irrigation will see a 25-60% increase in productivity.

An increase that can be sustained for years to come.

#### FSPI

#### Member Organisations

- Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia & the Pacific (AFAP)
- Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Fiji
- Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Kiribati
- Foundation for People and Community Development, Papua New Guinea
- Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Vanuatu
- Counterpart International, USA
- Solomon Islands Development Trust
- Tonga Community Development Trust
- Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organisations
- Just World Partners, UK
- le Siosiomaga Society (OLISSI), Samoa
- Timor Aid, East Timor

#### AFAP

#### International Partners

- FSPI
- Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), Nepal
- Sikkim Development Foundation, India
- Neo-Synthesis Research Centre (NSRC), Sri Lanka
- Commutech, Zimbabwe

#### MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of AFAP please request a Membership Application Form. Membership fees are \$25.00 per annum including GST.

#### DONATIONS TO AFAP

If you wish to make a donation to any AFAP Programs please contact the office to make your donation via credit card, or mail a cheque to AFAP nominating the program you wish to support.