



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.

Fisheries Project in East Timor

The fishing industry in East Timor has traditionally contributed towards both economic and food security. The Fisheries Project aims to strengthen this vital sector. Timor Aid, AFAP and ACIL have been working to:

- supply fishing equipment
- re-establishing a mechanics workshop and vocational training facility for maintenance of boat engines
- improve fish salting and packaging techniques for income generation and improved dietary intake for inland communities
- experiment with boat building to identify an appropriate design for coastal fishing.

Since this AusAID funded project began last July, workshop has been established at Hera near Dili, and a basic training course in repair and maintenance of boat engines has been developed.



Building a prototype at Hera

Conducted by East Timorese mechanics and small enterprise trainers, the course was completed by people from ten districts. Each trainee is now eligible for an in-kind loan of tools and spare parts to establish a mechanics enterprise.

Kurt Koomen, AFAP's Asia Program Manager has been managing this project, and has been in East Timor since September 1999. He is now on a well-deserved holiday. We will report on Kurt's experiences in East Timor in future Newsletters.



Income Generation Training for Women in Nepal

Income-generation training aims to empower women to participate in economic activities to the benefit of the entire community. KEEP and AFAP are providing income-generation training in Nepal as part of the Poverty Alleviation through Micro-enterprise Initiatives Project, funded by AusAID.

As the main gatherers and users of forest products, women are more likely to be aware of emerging scarcities and more receptive to alternative sources of income. They are often key-players in running tourist enterprises. However, this has not always been recognised in the largely male-oriented tourism development programs.

The Solu project introduces various tourism related income-generating activities, with an emphasis on the training and participation of women.



Eco-tourism Workshop in Nepal

Projects such as this which focus on women tend to be more effective in reaching vulnerable members of the community such as children, the elderly and the disabled. Income generation training for women aims to address gender imbalances in access to resources and promotes more equitable development and benefit-sharing within Nepalese communities.



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AFAP is a signatory to the ACFOA Code of Conduct representing our commitment to ethical standards in governance, financial management and public accountability.



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

Yen Bai Integrated Village Development Program in Vietnam

What can a group of women do to improve the standard of living for their community? The local Women's Union in Yen Bai has proved that they can do a lot! Since 1996 these women have been working with AFAP Viet Nam to improve the health and future prospects of 1,460 poor households in Minh Bao and NamCurong communities.

Concerned about poverty in the community and the high levels of diarrhea and other water borne diseases that their families were experiencing, Yen Bai Women's Union decided to take action. In 1995 they requested assistance from AFAP Viet Nam to build better sanitation facilities; improve access to clean, safe water for their communities; and provide agricultural resources and training.



Children of Yen Bai in Viet Nam

Staff from AFAP provided technical assistance and training for members of Yen Bai Women's Union. These women are now educators and advisors to households and communities on basic health and agricultural issues. They also organise and carry out training and construction programs independently.

Inspired by the women's commitment, the whole community has become involved in the project. Household holders in Yen Bai assisted technicians to build wells, latrines and smokeless stoves. Over 1,000 people attended training workshops on sanitation and nutrition.

Flocks of chickens and thriving orchards are now a feature of Yen Bai, thanks to resources provided by AFAP Viet Nam. 3,160 fruit trees have been planted as part of the project.

Plans are now underway for work to begin in two other Yen Bai communities.



Kangaroo Valley's East Timorese Guest

When Assis Sarmento first came to Australia last year he was struck by how happy the people were. "I hope one day East Timorese people will be like that," says Assis, back in Kangaroo Valley for a three-month study tour.

Assis is reluctant to talk about the full horror of the weeks following the Timorese vote for Independence in 1999. Assis was working for the local television station SCTV and watched the television coverage. Like so many of his friends he was jubilant when independence was overwhelmingly supported. The jubilation was short lived and when the Indonesian militia came to his house in Dili that night, he was forced to flee to the church for safety, and then to the Darae Forest. "Things were very bad because in the forest we had no house, no food and very little water".

"We knew there were killings all around us, and we couldn't see Dili because of the smoke from burning buildings."



Rosandino Mendes, Francisco "Assis" Sarmento, John George, Augusto Aleixo and Vergilio Conceicao da Cruz in Remexio

Assis and his family relied on a radio for news, and when the INTERFET forces arrived, Assis felt the ordeal was nearly over. "Everyone was so glad that we would be free".

"Everything was destroyed. I had only the few clothes I had managed to grab the night of the independence result". Assis hopes to get work when he gets back to Dili and then pass the government's test for teacher training. He hopes the Australian government will help East Timor by providing the education and training that is badly needed to get the country back on its feet.

Assis returned to East Timor on 14th August 2001.

AFAP and the Kangaroo Valley – Remexio Partnership are working together to help the people of East Timor

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.

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