

News from ANU Enterprise, Projects

Key highlights up to August 2007 include:

Asia Pacific Emerging Infectious Diseases Facility launched (AusReady)

ANU Enterprise is managing AusReady and is seeking expressions of interest from professionals to register on the database. For more information go to:

<http://www.ausready.org.au/index.php?page=advisor-identification-and-recruitment>

AusAID in collaboration with the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has recently established AusReady: the Asia Pacific Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) Facility. AusReady will identify and mobilise expertise to undertake prevention and preparedness work in the Asia Pacific region. This work will support activities under the Australian Government's *Pandemics and EIDs Strategy 2006-2010*. The AusReady database will provide a register of trained and qualified professionals across a range of relevant disciplines, available to work on short- and long-term projects in the Asia Pacific region. Relevant disciplines include animal and human health, laboratory and clinical operations, epidemiology, health systems, social sciences, gender, capacity development, environment and natural resources, information systems and project/program management.

Solomon Islands People's Survey

In April to June 2007 we were engaged by AusAID to conduct a comprehensive survey in the Solomon Islands on people's perceptions on law and order, public accountability, delivery of services including health and education, and some government agents, such as the Police and MPs. The results will be launched in the Solomon Islands soon. Details of the Pilot Survey we conducted last year are online:

<http://www.ramsi.org/node/134>

Cross cultural and development training

We have been engaged to deliver development and cross cultural awareness training, and debriefing services to the AusAID funded Australian Youth Ambassadors for development program (AYAD). The AYAD program is managed by Austraining Pty Ltd. Around 400 AYADs are sent overseas each year and each AYAD must undergo pre departure training. Around two thirds go through the debrief service.

Removing cyanide from the cassava plant

ANU plant chemist Dr Howard Bradbury has successfully tested a process that, which is a staple but risky food of 100 million poor across developing countries. More than 100,000 people are affected by the toxic levels of cyanide in the plant which can cause paralysis. The simple process allows hydrogen cyanide gas to be released into the atmosphere leaving the plant safe for consumption. Dr Bradbury and his colleagues are now working towards teaching the process to those who eat it. "The people there have no alternative, they either eat it or starve" said Dr Bradbury.

<http://www.anu.edu.au/BoZo/staffandstudents/staffprofiles/bradbury.php>

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