

PROPOSED *SCHOOL OF THE PACIFIC*

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the School will be to

- Design, develop and administer short programs to consider and provide solution pathways to address critical issues in the region.
- Strengthen and enhance Australia's relationships with the region and especially with South Pacific and South-East Asian nations.

FELLOWSHIPS

Attendance at the School will be through fellowships awarded twice yearly by the Australian Government. Fellowships will be provided to political, government, business and NGO leaders mainly, but not exclusively, from developing Pacific countries and Australia.

Fellowships will be tenable only at the School for a one month program of learning and dialogue. Each fellowship will include international and domestic travel, accommodation and meals at the School, and a daily stipend.

OUTCOMES

After attending the School, fellows will be expected to have benefited in these respects:

- They will have acquired actionable knowledge and information on critical matters affecting the region and their own countries.
- They will have produced a report documenting solutions, action pathways or best practice guidelines in relation to matters that have been under scrutiny.
- They will have formed new relationships and developed new networks in their areas of professional activity or expertise.
- They will have interacted with Australian opinion leaders and, through them, brought the issues under consideration to the attention of the broader Australian community.
- They will remain in touch as an expert alumni group beyond their fellowship through an active communications program managed by the School.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The School will have a Governing Council comprising a Chairman appointed by Federal Cabinet and up to six qualified people from the following or similar entities:

- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- the Business Council of Australia
- the Australian Council for International Development
- the universities
- the community

Some relationship might also be established with UNESCO (perhaps through the Australian National Commission), the Asian Development Bank and the APEC Secretariat.

The School will be directed by a suitably qualified Executive Director who will be accountable to the Council and work in close conjunction with AusAID and designated universities.

The School will be staffed by three Program Directors and a small group of administrative employees.

PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS

This concept paper is proposing twelve four-week programs a year conducted between, say, March and November. Each program would include 15 fellows, 80 percent from the region and 20 percent from Australia.

The faculty for each program would include a Program Director and visiting experts in the field under consideration. By and large, these people will be Australian nationals.

A typical four week program (20 contact days) might structure its time as follows:

- 4 briefing days, during which fellows receive high level briefings from Australian or, if available, international experts in the program subject
- 12 seminar days, during which fellows consider the subject matter of the program through research, dialogue, analysis, modelling, solution development and decision making
- 2 conference days, during which a public conference based around the subject matter is held and to which fellows and other experts present papers
- 2 reporting days, during which the fellows finalise and, in the final half day, present their report to the School Council and perhaps other distinguished guests

REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAMS

These programs represent notional examples of what might be offered by the School:

- Environmental integrity in the Asia Pacific region.
- The impact of global warming in the South Pacific.
- Community policing and terrorism in South East Asia.
- Using the mass media as a means of development
- Economic development and migration in the South Pacific.
- Strengthening relationships between Australia and the South Pacific.
- Promoting educational opportunity through regional cooperation.
- Equalising health care in the Asia Pacific region.

FINANCING

Capital budget. It is understood the former ASOPA buildings are to be renovated to a habitable condition but converting the facility to the intended use will require a substantial additional capital budget, which cannot be estimated at present.

Recurrent budget. The estimated operating budget would be of the order of \$4 million.

Keith Jackson AM
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