

NEWS UPDATE

January to April 2008

SAD NEWS – YKI/JFF WITHDRAWS ITS SUPPORT FROM THE ABMEC

The former Director of ABMEC, Dr Dharyata, was replaced in March by Dr Srijoni from the Bali Health Department, and subsequently we were advised that local regulations regarding the Centre had been reviewed, resulting in a change in the patient clientele to be treated at the Centre. Under these new regulations, the Foundation is unable to support operations for poor patients and so has had no option but to withdraw its support of this facility.

The Australia Bali Memorial Eye Centre has been a great disappointment to the Foundation since its opening in October 2007, both in its low output of cataract surgery and in the bureaucratic barriers to the Foundation's being able to support free surgery for the poor which was the original purpose of the gift.

The decision to withdraw has been made with great sadness, as the ABMEC and its huge potential for ophthalmology in Indonesia and in assisting the cataract poor has been the focus of our planning for several years.

ON A POSITIVE NOTE, EVEN MORE PATIENTS BEING ASSISTED ...

The Foundation is switching its resources to work more actively with the autonomous District Health Departments in Bali and other provinces – field eye screening, distributing glasses and establishing free cataract operating programs. We look forward to expanding our Sight Restoration program into many new areas, as these activities have the potential to multiply our effectiveness many times over, and to assist even more of the 1.8 million cataract blind people in Indonesia who are so poor they cannot afford the operation to restore their sight.

EAST LOMBOK CATARACT PROGRAM (ELCP)

One of these District Health programs, our new East Lombok Cataract Program which started in January 2008 in the Selong Hospital, is going ahead very successfully. Ophthalmologist Dr Endro and his team performed **518 free cataract operations** in the first four months (January to April) and YKI's East Lombok screening team **examined 4,470 patients** with eye problems in the field.

In all our work in the field, we find that around 70% of the patients examined for eye problems can be assisted with a pair of glasses, and to cater for these people, the East Lombok Cataract Program is being expanded to include refraction and



free glasses distribution. Adit, one of the ELCP screening team, is a trained refractionist and will head the refraction activities.

VISITING VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGIST

In late April, Professor John Crompton (ophthalmologist from Adelaide, SA) spent several days working with Dr Endro in new cataract surgical techniques, and the screening team in identification of cataracts in the field.



BULELENG CATARACT PROGRAM

As of 1 April 2008, what was formerly our North Bali Mobile Eye Clinic project began operating under the auspices of the Buleleng Department of Health which covers the northern city of Singaraja and the District of Buleleng. Ophthalmologist Dr Sekar is working with our YKI team which comprises a coordinator, four nurses and two drivers. YKI's own mobile eye clinic is now based at the Sukasada Health Clinic where this project is located.



EXPANSION INTO REFRACTION AND GLASSES DISTRIBUTION

To expand the Buleleng program to include refraction and glasses, Nengah, our optometry technician, traveled to Buleleng in early April to train the team in refraction.



VISITING VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

In late April, Dr Peter Graham (ophthalmologist from Perth, WA) and Dr Michelle Gajus (ophthalmologist from Wollongong, NSW) spent several days in Buleleng working with Dr Sekar and the YKI team in a training capacity.

FIELD EYE SCREENINGS

CATARACT SCREENING TEAM: REFRACTION TRAINING

In January our new cataract screening team, who have been very successfully screening for cataracts in the villages around Denpasar, underwent training in refraction to enable an extension of the screening service to include issue of remedial spectacles. The demand for our Field Eye Screenings increased, with several requests from the District Health Departments. Our teams responded and in the January-April period conducted a total of **65 field eye screenings**, mainly in the Denpasar area, testing **13,845 patients** and **distributing 9,192 pairs of spectacles**. They identified 823 patients blind with cataracts. These screenings will continue over the next few months and expand into other Districts.



VISITING VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Dr Michelle Gajus spent several days in April working with the Screening Teams, providing further training in identification of cataracts and other ophthalmic problems in the field.

January-April

CHILDREN'S CATARACT SURGERY AND PROSTHESIS EYES

In February Dr Dharyata performed three sight restoring operations in the ABMEC on two children with congenital cataracts, with anaesthetist Dr Sukra working in a volunteer capacity.

Wayan Wijaya, YKI's prosthesis eye technician, is progressing well with his training in making prosthesis eyes, and has made and fitted prosthetic eyes for seven patients in this four-month period. This program makes a world of difference to the patients' lives, giving them a normal appearance and chance of a normal life, work and social relationships.



CHILDREN'S CORRECTIVE SURGERY

Eight cleft operations in five operating sessions were performed during the period January to April - all performed by Dr Anom in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar, with volunteer anaesthetists, Dr Sukra and Dr Putu Pramana.

TB TRAINING AND REVIEW

February and April Training sessions: Four of the specialists from the Australian TB Consortium visited Bali in February to conduct a two-week long review of progress of the TB Project, assessing future training needs. They traveled to all the District hospitals in Bali and held discussions with laboratory staff and TB health workers. Three of the consortium team returned for a week in April to conduct further training sessions in this ongoing program.

ASSISTANCE TO DESPERATELY ILL

YOGIK: PROSTHESIS LEG



Balinese boy, Ida Bagus Kadek Yogik, was born without a left leg below the knee and has had to be carried everywhere by his parents. He is the sixth child in a very poor family of 7 children and started primary school in July 2007.

He came to our attention through a local contact to see if we could assist. We were fortunate to have made recent contact with professional podiatrists, Julie and Peter Norton, living in Sanur, who helped make plaster casts of Kadek's leg. Kadek and his father travelled to Perth in December 2007 for assessment by professional staff, and were advised that he required surgery to prepare the stump prior to fitting the prosthesis. This surgery was performed by Dr Bram, Balinese orthopaedic surgeon, in January 2008. Alan Crumlin, prosthesis maker from Perth, offered to make the prosthesis leg at no cost to the Foundation and will travel to Bali in May/June to fit the leg and teach Yogik how to walk.

ARIS SETIAWAN



Aris, a 25 year old Javanese living in Bali, broke his right leg in a motor bike accident in January 2008. He went to a public hospital, where his wounds were dressed, but because he couldn't afford surgery, he left without further treatment. About two weeks later, Aris came to the attention of the Foundation. He was in

considerable pain with his broken, unset leg, and infection had set in. It looked at this stage as though amputation was the only option. We sent him to orthopaedic surgeon Dr Bram, who cleaned up the wound and set his leg at a local private hospital. Aris was put on antibiotics for several weeks to avoid further infection.



By the end of April he was up on his feet, leg intact!

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Several donors to the Education Assistance Program met up with their sponsored children while they were visiting Bali over this four month period. Apart from the wonderful assistance this sponsorship gives to the recipient children and their families, one of the best features of this particular program is the fact that donors can actually meet their sponsored children, some donors making regular visits.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JFF

The Annual General Meeting of The John Fawcett Foundation was held in Perth on 11 April. The Board welcomed the opportunity to report on activities over 2007, and to meet and thank the Foundation's supporters. The Foundation is in great shape, with exciting plans afoot, especially in the Sight Restoration and Blindness Prevention Project.

With all Board members in Perth, the JFF Board also took the opportunity to hold its own meetings and planning sessions.

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

ONLINE DONATIONS

Donations can be made by credit card online via our website, www.balieye.org. Single or regular donations can be made using this facility.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Tax deductible donations to the Foundation's humanitarian work can be made in Australia, the United Kingdom and the USA. Please refer to our website at www.balieye.org for information on how to donate. Donations from other countries can be made by direct transfer to the Foundation's bank accounts or online via our website.

For further information, please email us at yki@indo.net.id.