



NEWS UPDATE

January – February 2007

AWARD: BEST FOUNDATION IN INDONESIA

2006 finished on a very high note for The John Fawcett Foundation when its Indonesian action arm, the Yayasan Kemanusiaan Indonesia, was awarded the status of Best Humanitarian Foundation in Indonesia, with particular reference to its high level of management and administration. In December, Wayan Sukajaya, our Senior Projects Manager, traveled to Solo, Java, to receive the prestigious award from the President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and the National Minister of Social Welfare.

PROSTHESIS EYE TRAINING



Two of our staff, Wayan Wijaya and Dewa Putu, recently started a program of training in the making of prosthesis eyes. Our Prosthesis Eye Program has been heavily dependent on a Balinese man living close to Ubud, who custom-makes the eyes for each person. Unfortunately he is now very ill, but he agreed to pass on his skills to our staff. We were most fortunate to receive funding to cover this training from Karen Anderson, a member of the XL Group.

SOUTH KALIMANTAN MOBILE EYE CLINIC: TRAINING AND SELECTION OF NEW OPHTHALMOLOGIST

In November-December 2006 three young Indonesian ophthalmologists underwent surgical training in cataract surgical techniques as part of our Sight Restoration and Blindness Prevention Project. Dr Peter Graham, volunteer ophthalmologist from Perth, traveled to Bali to do the initial assessment and training, and Dr Ian Spencer did the final assessment at the conclusion of the training period. From the three candidates, Dr Puspa was selected for working in the South Kalimantan Mobile Eye Clinic, and got off to a very promising start early in 2007, performing 49 cataract operations in his first three weeks.



CHILDREN'S CATARACT OPERATIONS



In January and February ten sight-restoring cataract operations were performed on seven children in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar.

Ophthalmologist Dr Wayan Dharyata performed the operations, with anaesthetist Dr Sukra offering his time and skills free of charge to the Foundation for these children from poor families.

FIELD EYE SCREENINGS



In January-February the YKI Screening Team conducted five field eye screening trips in Bali – two in the vicinity of the Palace at Kerambitan in the south of the island with staff from the Indera Hospital, and three in conjunction with the North Bali Mobile Eye Clinic team – in Jembrana and Negara. The Team screened a total of 2,185 village people, and identified 71 blind with cataracts. The teams also assessed the vision of 488 primary school children, and distributed a total of 1,782 free pairs of spectacles to adults and children.

NORTH BALI MOBILE EYE CLINIC

The North Bali MEC team continues to exceed its targets for cataract surgery, operating 239 cataract blind patients in January and February, taking the total number of surgeries to 2,240 since its inception two years ago. The NBMEC team regularly works in conjunction with the YKI Field Screening Team to mass screen villagers in remote areas, identifying eye problems.

LOMBOK EYE CLINIC

Dr Alessandro Pezzola from Italian NGO Una Sola Vita, conducted a two-week cataract surgical session in the Clinic in the south-central part of Lombok in early January. He was assisted by the senior theatre nurse from the Bali Eye Hospital to perform 28 operations on poor cataract blind people, bringing the total for the Lombok Eye Clinic to 227. Dr Alessandro has noted a high incidence of trachoma in the patients presenting at the Lombok Clinic, a condition which can be blinding if not treated early.

LOW VISION – VISITS TO DENPASAR BLIND SCHOOLS

Kadek Armyanti, our Low Vision Assistant, is visiting blind schools in Denpasar on a regular basis to introduce low vision students in the schools to computer technology that can help them live a more normal life.

CLEFT LIP AND PALATE OPERATIONS

In January and February, six children underwent cleft operations – five cleft lips and one palate. The operations were carried out by Dr Anom in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar, with Dr Sukra, the anaesthetist, offering his time free of charge.



TB TRAINING PROJECT

In February, three members of the Bali TB Project Consortium traveled from Australia to Bali to conduct 'Train the Trainer' courses for Bali Department of Health over a two-week period. Richard Lumb from the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Sciences in Adelaide trained the laboratory technicians, and Dr Rick Stapledon from Royal Adelaide Hospital and Dr Justin Waring from Royal Perth Hospital trained local hospital staff who handle TB patients. The next training program conducted by the Australian consortium is planned for July 2007. Funding for this program is from Australian Red Cross and is managed by Westcare Inc, Perth WA.

Dr Rick Stapledon and Dr Justin Waring, with Bali Department of Health hospital staff undergoing training in TB management.



HAWKES BEQUEST

The Foundation has received a bequest from the estate of Frank Alwyn Hawkes which it will receive in monthly payments over six years. As requested by Frank Hawkes prior to his passing, these funds will be used for the Foundation's Sight Restoration and Blindness Prevention Project. This regular funding will be a tremendous boost to our cataract program in Bali.

OFFICE UPGRADE

Our Bali office underwent an upgrade in December-January, with a minor renovation which resulted in a more efficient use of the space available for our growing team. We were fortunate to have the assistance of Allan Kirkpatrick from Perth to help with an upgrade of our computer system and training of our office staff in new software.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANCE

Ian Foord, Kate, a physiotherapist and his wife, Kate, an occupational therapist, volunteered their services while on a holiday in Bali. They visited Gusti, the young paraplegic man whose legs were amputated last year and who is now using a wheelchair, to assess his situation. They were able to suggest several simple improvements which would help Gusti develop more independence, including a set of exercises to further develop the strength in his upper body.



Ian and Kate also visited Komang, a former patient who had been severely burned in a house fire and subsequently underwent skin graft operation on his arm and body. They were very pleased to report that Komang had full movement in his arm and shoulder, with very little restriction resulting from the scarring.

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

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 in other countries can be made by direct transfer to the Foundation's bank accounts. For information, please email us at yki@indo.net.id.