

NEWS UPDATE

October - December 2007

AUSTRALIA BALI MEMORIAL EYE CENTRE (ABMEC)

The ABMEC opened to patients on 1 October and got off to a smooth start. This facility has the potential to become a state-of-the-art eye treatment centre in Indonesia, with its sophisticated training facilities. The Foundation's involvement will enable free treatment to many of the poor patients who aren't financially able to seek medical treatment, and will also facilitate valuable practical surgical training for young Indonesian ophthalmologists. The Foundation is also planning a regular program of visiting ophthalmic specialists, registrars and other specialist personnel from Australia to work with local staff in the ABMEC.

ABMEC: VISITING VOLUNTEER SPECIALISTS



Ophthalmic registrar from Perth, Dr Chee Kang, and Alex Tan worked in a training capacity in the ABMEC in December. Dr Chee spent three weeks working with ophthalmologists in the ABMEC clinics, and Alex Tan commenced a six-week period of training in the use of the fundus camera with local technicians and nurses.

ABMEC: VITRECTOMY TRAINING – DR NITIN VERMA



In late December, Dr Nitin Verma, volunteer ophthalmologist from Australia, conducted a three-day vitrectomy training session in the ABMEC with Dr Dharyata, who operates for the Foundation's children's cataract program. Nine blind children were operated during the training session, and 38 previously operated patients were brought in for post-operative assessment and follow-up treatment.

FIELD EYE SCREENINGS - BALI

In this three-month period 3,881 village people were screened by our team in 11 different remote locations in Bali, and of these 156 people were identified blind with cataracts and referred to the North Bali Mobile Eye Clinic for surgery. 2,806 (72%) of those screened were issued with remedial glasses. During the same screening trips, the team visited primary schools and tested the eyesight of 1,315 children, issuing glasses to five.

CATARACT SCREENING TEAM & SOUTH BALI MOBILE EYE CLINIC (SBMEC)

The Foundation's new Cataract Screening Team of three nurses started working in earnest in early November, and in November and December screened 2,218 patients and identified 338

cataract blind in locations under one hour from Denpasar, a very clear indication of the great need for the provision of additional free cataract surgery in the community.

NEW PROJECT: EAST LOMBOK CATARACT PROGRAM



In November, we started a training program for staff to work in a new cataract project to be located in the east of Lombok. This project will be based at the Selong Hospital and will aim to significantly increase the existing output of local ophthalmologist, Dr Hendro, from his current output of 300-400 free operations a year. The Director of the Selong Hospital, Dr Hasbe, is very supportive of the new program, and has offered YKI room for an office in its newly-built wing. To ensure a steady supply of patients we have trained a nurse and refractionist, both local East Lombok residents, in identification of cataracts, and a coordinator to manage the program. Dr Ian Spencer, volunteer ophthalmologist from Western Australia, traveled to Bali in December to conduct the training for the medical team. The program is due to commence in early January 2008.

CHILDREN'S RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY



In late October, volunteer plastic surgeon from Perth, Western Australia, Dr Tim Cooper made another very welcome visit to Bali to continue his surgical training sessions with local surgeon, Dr Anom. Together the two surgeons operated 22 children over a four-day intensive surgical session. Many of the children were severely affected with cleft lips and palates; others with burns contractions. Dr Wayan Sukra again volunteered his valuable skills and time to do the anaesthetics for the full surgical session.



Later in November, Dr Anom traveled to Perth, at the invitation of Dr Tim, to gain valuable experience in cleft and burns work over a two-week period in Australian hospitals.

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NEW PROGRAM: ORTHODONTICS



Another exciting new venture for the Foundation is an extension of the Children's Corrective Surgery program into orthodontics. Many of the children we assist with cleft operations are still left with severely crooked teeth, which is a source of great embarrassment and often social stigma for them. We are most fortunate to have gained the services of Drg Maharyani (Hani), a newly-graduated dentist who is assisting us with assessing and arranging treatment for some of the worst affected patients from our cleft program. The treatment is long-term (about 12 months) but will have great benefit for the patients who will finally have the confidence to smile.

YOGIK: PROSTHETIC LEG

In November, we arranged for Yogik, a six year old Balinese boy, to travel to Perth, with his father to have a prosthetic leg fitted. Yogik was born with the lower part of his left leg missing and has had to be carried around by his parents. He recently started school, and his condition and dependence on his parents is becoming more and more problematic.

We were fortunate to have received a most generous offer from Andrew Vearing of OPS and Kevin McCarthy of Orthotic Computer Technology of WA, to make a prosthetic leg for Yogik, fit it and provide walking training free of charge. The Indonesian Consulate in Perth and the Balinese community provided valuable logistical and accommodation support for Yogik and his father, and 100 Friends, a foundation based in the USA, provided the funds for the trip.



Specialist examination in Perth, however, revealed that Yogik needed to undergo an operation on his leg before a prosthesis could be satisfactorily fitted, and this operation will be undertaken in Bali early in 2008.

EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



Another container of medical equipment made its way to Bali in December. Most of the equipment was destined for the ABMEC and included ophthalmic equipment as well as essential medical supplies. Despite the threatening monsoon clouds, our enthusiastic team managed to unload the fully-packed container and deliver the equipment to its various destinations without any of it getting wet.

Prior to shipment the equipment was stored at HR Products in Canning Vale and we are most appreciative for the free use of this store for this vital work.

PRO BONO AUDIT OF YKI FINANCES



Ernst & Young auditor, Lily (left)
with YKI's accountant, Susi.



International accounting firm, Ernst and Young, conducted its first audit of YKI's finances, covering the year 2006. In October, accountants from the Jakarta office, Listya and Lily, spent three weeks in Bali working long hours with YKI's accounting staff, Susi and Artini, and David Wijaya spent one week on the initial assessment for the audit process. As part of the auditing process, the visiting accountants also gave very helpful advice about how we could improve our accounting practices to better conform to international auditing requirements.

This audit is being done on a pro bono basis, and we would like to thank Ernst and Young very sincerely for this very generous donation of its staff's time and expertise, and also for its vote of confidence in YKI's accounting procedures.

CHANGES TO BOARDS – JFF & YKI



We are very pleased to welcome a new Chairman to the JFF Board – Mr Robert Foord. Bob has been a keen supporter of JFF/YKI for many years and has been on the Board in the capacity of Vice-Chairman since 2004. Bob is replacing Graeme Robertson as Chairman, and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation of Graeme's valuable contribution and support for the Foundation's work since its inception in 2000. We are also happy to report that Graeme will continue on the Board.



YKI also has a new Chairman, and we warmly welcome Dr Putu Dewa Sudana. Dr Sudana is a former head of the Department of Health in Bali and has been a strong supporter of the Foundation's work since its early days. Dr Sudana is taking up this position as a result of a restructure of the YKI Board due to legislative changes for all foundations in Indonesia. He replaces Graeme Robertson in this role.

HARVEY WORLD TRAVEL: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE FOUNDATION'S HUMANITARIAN WORK



We are delighted to report that Harvey World Travel (HWT) has decided to continue its very valuable financial support for the Foundation for another three years. HWT's support is for the Foundation's administrative expenses and means that other donors can be assured that at least 90% their donations are going direct to the projects.

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.

2008 AND BEYOND

We take this opportunity to wish all our supporters the very best for 2008 and hope that this year will be a peaceful and successful one for you all.