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## **Re: Opportunity to participate in a 3-week intensive training program in Australia**

Dear prospective participant

This letter is to inform you about a training program funded by AusAID, entitled “*Training leaders from small remote island states in advancing sustainable development*”, and to invite you to apply for your participation. The program involves an Australia Awards Fellowship, covering airfares, accommodation and all living expenses. Fellows chosen to receive a Fellowship are expected to be leaders or potential leaders in their field, with the likelihood of making a valuable contribution to their country on their return home.

Our training program will assist island communities in addressing the sustainability challenges of: energy supply, waste disposal, and maintaining export industries. Fellows from the Pacific Islands will gain knowledge and practical know-how about

- a) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and environmental accounting (including carbon footprinting and sustainable living site visits), environmental management plans and administrative procedures supporting sustainable development, and how to write funding applications,
- b) management of fisheries resources, marine reserves, and monitoring for ciguatera and other harmful algae (including hands-on microscopy skills), and
- c) managing and saving energy and fuel, and managing waste disposal (including site visits showing working, sustainable, and island-friendly solutions).

We understand that island leaders need to be all-round experts. We will therefore address island leaders' needs through training on a broad selection of relevant issues, and a range of training modes. Our program covers: tailored environmental accounting courses designed for community leaders as well as business and government professionals; guided team work and discussions; practical training in modern fisheries and aquaculture management; and through a practical sustainability training program conducted on Norfolk Island. Here, emphasis is placed on bringing Fellows into dialogue with Norfolk Islanders who are community leaders in implementing alternative energy and waste strategies without any outside assistance. Thus, Fellows can obtain first-hand knowledge about solutions that are suited to island environments and skill pools.

This training program will provide diverse yet sound knowledge needed for communicating and implementing strategies that address energy, waste, pollution and fisheries issues. This knowledge will position Fellows to provide policy advice to their communities and governments. Through witnessing island-based examples of applied local knowledge and self-sufficiency in alternative energy use and waste disposal, Fellows will gain practical experience to complement their existing knowledge.

More information on the training program can be found at [www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au/research/documents/AusAID\\_USyd\\_TrainingProgram\\_CourseInfo.pdf](http://www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au/research/documents/AusAID_USyd_TrainingProgram_CourseInfo.pdf). More information on the Australia Awards Fellowships can be found at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/australia-awards/pages/fellowships.aspx>.

For your information we have added some guidance and information on the application procedure, as well as an example training agenda for the 2012 training. Please don't hesitate to contact Joy Murray ([joy.murray@sydney.edu.au](mailto:joy.murray@sydney.edu.au)) if you have any questions with regard to the program.

We hope that you will apply with us, and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our training programs.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joy Murray', written in a cursive style.



Manfred Lenzen



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# Sustainable Islands Training Program

## Applicant Information

Welcome to the University of Sydney's Sustainable Islands training program, funded by AusAID.

The following paperwork is needed from applicants for the Sustainable Island program (Appendix 1) funded as AusAID's Australia Awards Fellowship:

Use the list below as a **check list** – tick the items off as you collect them.

## Applicant check list

- CV (a standard, downloadable form for preparing your CV is available at [http://ausaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/3522\\_2442\\_6715\\_7695\\_7588.aspx](http://ausaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/3522_2442_6715_7695_7588.aspx)). Be sure to use the current form !

- Letter of support on your organisation's letterhead. This letter should
- confirm support for the fellowship activity/program
  - name the individual Fellows and the rationale for choosing the Fellows
  - identify the expected outcomes and the benefit to your organisation and to the Fellows

(Appendix 2 is an example letter written in recommendation of Dr Murukesan Krishnapillai and used as an example with his permission)

- Name of a replacement candidate in case you cannot accept the Fellowship due to unforeseen circumstances (this is crucial, our application will not be looked upon favourably without full documentation of replacements).

- CV and letter of recommendation for the replacement candidate (as above)

- One paragraph answering the question "What is the rationale and process for nomination of Fellows?" i.e. how were you selected and why (Appendix 3 below is further information and an example for Dr Murukesan Krishnapillai).

- One paragraph answering the question "How does the proposal relate to programs of your overseas counterpart organisation(s)?" i.e. how does the leadership program relate to the work of your own organisation (Appendix 4 below is further information and an example for Dr Murukesan Krishnapillai).

- One paragraph answering the question "How would the Fellowship program ensure that the intended benefits and outcomes are sustainable?" i.e. how can we ensure that you will be in a position to implement what you learn and that you will be able to continue your learning and support of others (Appendix 5 below is further information and an example for Dr Murukesan Krishnapillai).

## **An overview of the Sustainable Islands Training Program at the University of Sydney, SIMS, and EcoNorfolk**

**Aim** – The aim of this program is to train leaders from small remote islands in the area of sustainable development in order to increase their capacity to deal with key regional environmental issues such as energy supply, recycling, and waste management. The program will focus on peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and management training, but will include specifically tailored academic units aimed at enhancing the Fellows’ understanding of the impact of a globalised interconnected world on the sustainability of their region.

**Program summary** – The training program assists island communities in addressing sustainability challenges of: energy, waste, and maintaining exports. Pacific Island Fellows will gain knowledge and skills in:

- a) environmental impact assessment and accounting (including carbon footprinting),
- b) management of fisheries resources, marine reserves, and monitoring for ciguatera and other harmful algae;
- c) managing and saving energy and fuel, and managing waste disposal (including Norfolk Island site visits showing island-friendly solutions).

**Training methods** – The training program addresses island leaders’ needs through training on a range of relevant issues. The program covers:

- environmental accounting courses designed for community leaders and business and government professionals;
- team work and discussions;
- training in modern fisheries and aquaculture management; and
- a program conducted on Norfolk Island emphasizing dialogue with Norfolk community leaders in implementing alternative energy and waste strategies without outside assistance.

Fellows obtain first-hand knowledge about solutions suited to island environments and local skills.

**Detailed program description** including example timetable, goals and outcomes –

[http://www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au/research/images/ISA-SydneyUni\\_AusAID-ALAF\\_TrainingProgram.pdf](http://www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au/research/images/ISA-SydneyUni_AusAID-ALAF_TrainingProgram.pdf)

## COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA -FSM

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Office of the President

1 November 2011

Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship Secretariat  
AusAID  
GPO Box 887  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam.

On behalf of the College of Micronesia-FSM, it gives me great pleasure in nominating Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai for the 2011 Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship.

Dr. Krishnapillai is a Research Fellow with the college and currently manages the Agricultural Experiment Station of our Yap campus. He is engaged in research and extension programs of one of our component units, Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE). Its mission and activities are centered on a Plan of Work which is an integrated approach to critical issues of strategic importance to the entire Micronesia region.

In 2003, the FSM completed a 20 year strategic development plan incorporating 'sustained growth' as a central theme that focuses on long term environmental sustainability. In the FSM, sustainability is everybody's business. The college being the only institution of higher education in the island nation, is playing a central role in building educated citizenry. The college's master plan envisions our commitment for continuous improvement of student programs and services which, in turn, support economic and social development needs of the FSM. The CRE unit of the college focuses on developing and assisting a well informed populace to ensure wise and judicious management of the limited human and natural resources needed to support a viable FSM economy. These objectives are addressed through interdisciplinary community level research, extension and education programs embodied in the Plan of Work. Interdisciplinary efforts in research extension and education require not only input of researchers but also extension agents, stakeholders and community members.

The programs arising from the CRE's Plan of Work are therefore developed based on stakeholder input and consistent with development plans of each state. They are implemented in partnership and in close collaboration with community and state agencies. Climate Change and Sustainable Energy are two of the important programs that CRE is currently working on in line with national priorities. A similar collaborative process has been adopted for the development of the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship program to be provided by the University of Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Sydney. This process has ensured that the program is consistent with research and extension programs of the college and AusAID's country development program priorities in the FSM.

Dr. Krishnapillai is the most experienced Researcher of this institution and he has been selected for nomination based on his qualifications, experience, relevant research in the environmental discipline and his ongoing collaboration with University of Sydney. Dr. Krishnapillai currently collaborates with the Integrated Sustainability Analysis Group, University of Sydney studying key determinants and drivers of sustainability in several remote islands of the Pacific. This collaboration began after Prof. Manfred Lenzen's visit in Yap last year. Prof. Lenzen gave a lecture in Yap Campus and made several consultations with government agencies. Later, Dr. Krishnapillai was invited to join the group to initiate a collaborative project that would benefit the island nation to tackle its sustainability issues in many ways. I understand that a joint article on their preliminary research is currently in press.

Dr. Krishnapillai has been with the college for the past 10 years and managing several research and extension projects funded by US Federal programs. As the head of the Agricultural Experiment Station in Yap, he exercises his leadership efficiently and communicates effectively to his clients and stakeholders. His functional skills are indeed an asset to this institution and greatly help to disseminate the information and knowledge to the island community. I strongly believe that the proposed training program will strengthen Dr. Krishnapillai's leadership potential and contribute to his local capacity building efforts through post fellowship research and extension programs.

I strongly believe that the proposed training will strengthen established collaboration of the college with the University of Sydney and will help Dr. Krishnapillai to incorporate and implement appropriate extension programs to benefit this island nation. The college fully supports his nomination and will provide needed administrative support to undertake this training. In the unforeseen event that Dr. Krishnapillai is unable to take up this Fellowship then Mr. Steven Young Ukh, CRE Extension Agent in Yap has the full support of the College administration to take up the Fellowship in his place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need more information.



**What is the rationale and process for nomination of Fellows?**

*Overseas counterpart organisations have an important role in nominating Fellows capable of implementing knowledge and skills gained and with the potential to effect positive change in their home country. Explain how the Fellows were selected for nomination. What was the process? What role did the counterpart have?*

*Fellows chosen to receive an ALA Fellowship are expected to be leaders or potential leaders in their field, with the likelihood of making a valuable contribution to their country on their return home. Why are the nominated Fellows considered leaders or potential leaders in their field? How will they apply new knowledge and skills to bring about positive change in their workplaces?*

*(NB: A Letter of Support from the Overseas Counterpart Organisation and a Curriculum Vitae based on the ALAF template, must be provided for each nominated Fellow)*

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) government recognizes that the protection and sustainable management of its natural resources and environment is critical and therefore is committed to implement its Sustainable Development Plan through appropriate programs. However, the FSM still lack a competent workforce and therefore struggles to sustain improvements in key service sectors. The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) is committed to assisting in the development of the FSM by providing academic, careers and technical education opportunities. One of its special programs, Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE), focuses on developing and assisting a well-informed populace to ensure wise and judicious management of the limited human and natural resources needed to support a viable FSM economy.

Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai is Principal Researcher of the CRE. He has been selected for nomination to the ALAF by the College in consultation with the University of Sydney because of his qualifications, past experience, current research, and his ongoing collaboration with the Integrated Sustainability Analysis Group, University of Sydney. Dr Krishnapillai is a seasoned scientist with the college at Yap Campus and is responsible for environmental and agricultural research. He holds a split position of Researcher and Extension Specialist and has been with the college for the past 10 years.

As part of his current responsibilities Dr Krishnapillai works cooperatively with others and in leadership roles in the College and in the community. Hence he will have every opportunity to convey to others the skills and knowledge achieved through this fellowship program. As the head of the Experimental Station, he is an invited member in various State and National environmental/agriculture committees and consultation meetings, and is in a position to strongly influence decision making. The proposed training program will strengthen leadership potential of Dr. Krishnapillai and contribute to his local capacity building efforts through future research and extension programs.

**How does the proposal relate to programs of your overseas counterpart organisation(s)?**

*What are the issues/priorities that this program will address within the overseas counterpart organisation(s)? The Australian organisation should devote sufficient resources in preparing and planning the Fellowships program, working cooperatively with the counterpart to agree on joint objectives. Are there specific work plans in each overseas counterpart organisation that this fellowship addresses? How will they be implemented upon return?*

**College of FSM, Yap Campus**

The FSM is signatory to various environmental related conventions including CBD, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Montreal Protocol, Millennium Declaration, the Micronesian Challenge and the Green Energy Micronesia initiative, to ensure environmental sustainability for its vulnerable land. The sustained growth strategy and long-term sustainability is encapsulated in the nation's 20-year (2004-2023) Strategic Development Plan. Further, the National Environmental Sector Plan (2010-2015) outlines 9 strategic goals towards achieving environmental sustainability. The Partnership for Development between Australia and the FSM (2010) recognizes the commitment of two governments to improved environmental sustainability among other priorities. Furthermore, sustainable development is one of the four pillars of development and a regional priority set forth in the Pacific Plan (2005). The FSM government recognizes that the protection and sustainable management of its natural resources and environment is critical and therefore is committed to implement its Sustainable Development Plan through appropriate programs. However, the FSM still lack a competent workforce.

The COM-FSM is the only institution of higher education in the FSM providing quality education to its citizens through its programs and services. One of its special programs units, Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE), focuses on developing and assisting a well-informed populace to ensure wise and judicious management of the limited human and natural resources needed to support a viable FSM economy. These objectives are addressed through an array of community level research and extension programs embodied in its Plan of Work (POW). The 5-Year POW is an integrated approach to addressing the critical issues of strategic importance to the entire Micronesia region. All programs are developed based on stakeholders input and consistent with development plans of each state and implemented in partnership and in close collaboration with community and state agencies. Climate Change and Sustainable Energy are the two important programs that CRE is currently working on in line with national priorities.

The proposed training activities are consistent with the research and extension programs of the college as outlined in POW and AusAID's country development program priorities in the FSM. Part of this training will be conducted in a small island (Norfolk Island), investigating specific case studies of island-friendly solutions demonstrating remarkable sustainability performance in terms of energy conservation and waste recycling. These climate-smart grassroots "technology" innovations demonstrate the magnitude of resource needs and constraints in an island setting and display how to reduce the material metabolism. The fact that such "greener technology" can be easily replicated in other small islands like Yap increases the importance of this training program. This will strengthen the established collaboration with the University of Sydney and the materials and information developed during this program will pave way for developing a portfolio of mutually benefitting research and extension programs. Further, Dr. Krishnapillai's expertise will help the community to plan and make decisions to adapt to changing environments and sustain economic vitality, and can take advantage of emerging economic opportunities offered by sustainable practices.

**How would the Fellowship program ensure that the intended benefits and outcomes are sustainable?**

*What post-Fellowship work plans will be implemented? How will knowledge and skills acquired be disseminated?*

*Is there a clear commitment from the counterpart to provide a supportive environment for Fellows to implement post-Fellowship work or action plans which relate to sustaining outcomes and initiating reforms?*

**College of FSM, Yap Campus**

One of the prime activities of this training program is to learn about carbon footprinting and how such an exercise can benefit an island nation in its energy conservation and sustainability issues. A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment and in particular climate change. Once the carbon footprint is known a strategy can be devised to reduce emissions by appropriate interventions. The *Kyoto Protocol*, for which the FSM is a signatory, defines legally binding targets and timetables for cutting the greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the proposed training component that will be undertaken in Norfolk is timely and has direct relevance to the FSM as a small island nation.

The FSM embraces the mandates of sustainability and proactively address energy issues on a number of levels as part of its Energy Policy adopted in 2010. A comprehensive study to determine the potential of all appropriate renewable energy technologies including the low cost methane digesters as an energy source is on the anvil. The University of Sydney has studied the positive impacts of an ecofriendly methane digester installed in a Pig Farm at Norfolk Island where part of this training will be conducted. As a post fellowship plan, the potential of similar low cost methane digesters will be explored in the FSM where it will offer solutions to at least two pressing problems – swine waste management and the energy shortage. Similarly, potential of other greener technologies like waste recycling and energy production will also be explored and appropriate action plans will be incorporated in the individual POW.

The knowledge and skills acquired through this training program will be disseminated to the stakeholders and community members through various extension education methods. These include reinforcement methods such as factsheet, leaflet, newsletter and article, and integrative methods such as seminar, meeting, panel, forum and personal visit. Dr. Krishnapillai will incorporate gained knowledge into the extension program as appropriate and in line with his POW.