



AFAS News

Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme

March 2007

The AFAS Team

We are pleased to introduce three new faces to the AFAS team.

Ms Malika Bouhafs commenced working with AFAS mid 2006. Malika has a strong scientific background and an interest in fumigation practices.

Ms Fiona Mavris is a very experienced Quarantine officer. Prior to joining the AFAS team, Fiona worked on the implementation of AFAS with the Australian methyl bromide fumigation industry.

Dr Rhyll Vallis is the most recent addition to the AFAS team and has taken over the program coordination role. Rhyll is from Queensland and has a background in research and language.



AFAS Team Photograph
(Back row) Meredith Walton, Daryl Crapp, David Cox, Malika Bouhafs (Front) Fiona Mavris, Rhyll Vallis.

You may know Malika's name if you have emailed the AFAS inbox. Malika responds to all AFAS enquires received in the AFAS inbox and is working closely with Fiona on arrangements for the upcoming APEC sponsored AFAS Symposium (more on this later).

And if you are attending the AFAS Symposium, you may have received a letter or email from Fiona as her primary task with the AFAS team is ensuring that the Symposium is a success.

Both Malika and Fiona will work closely with Mr David Cox, Ms Meredith Walton, Mr Daryl Crapp and Ms Rhyll Vallis to further AFAS activities with participating overseas agencies.

All of us here in Canberra look forward to continuing to work together with you on AFAS during 2007.

David Cox
Manager – Offshore Development Unit
Import Clearance, Cargo Management

Team Member Profile



Name: Fiona Mavris
Qualifications: B. Science (Natural Resource Management/ Atmospheric Science)
Previous Occupations: Quarantine Officer in Canberra, Sydney, Darwin and East Timor.
Hobbies: Travel, equestrian, triathlon, scuba diving, reading.

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AFAS Symposium 2007 Jakarta 17-19 April

The first ever AFAS Symposium will be held in Jakarta Indonesia 17-19 April this year. Indonesia was chosen for the inaugural Symposium as it was the first country to participate in the AFAS with Australia.

The Symposium aims to bring together business and government agencies currently involved with AFAS and those economies interested in future AFAS involvement.

Funding for the Symposium has been provided by the Asia Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) – Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group.

The Symposium will allow participants to discuss the current AFAS program in an open and collaborative environment.

Session topics will focus discussions on AFAS implementation and training experiences, with Industry and Government invited to present their views. There will also be opportunities to discuss the AFAS methodology and the AQIS methyl bromide fumigation standard and to identify opportunities for efficiencies and improvements to the Scheme.

The AFAS 2007 Symposium will be held over three (3) days and all active APEC economies have been forwarded invitations for two government representatives to attend.

Other countries that have expressed an interest in AFAS, including India, Fiji, Italy and Sri Lanka have also been invited to send government participants to the Symposium.

Fumigation industry representatives from AFAS participating countries have also been invited to participate in the Symposium. Their participation will assist attendees to understand industry experience of AFAS participation.

Registration will take place at the hotel on Monday 16 April. There will be two workshop sessions held each day covering:

- 1) AFAS: The Implementation Experience
- 2) AFAS Training – A Country Focus

- 3) The AQIS Standard, the AFAS Methodology and its extension to other treatments
- 4) AFAS – The future and administrative arrangements

Field trips to view an AFAS registered fumigation company and the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency's purpose built AFAS training facility are scheduled for the Thursday following the workshop sessions.

AFAS trainer Mr Peter Meadows and fumigation specialist Jan van Graver have also been invited as speakers and to participate in the Symposium.

We look forward to seeing you there.

AFAS – India audit

The Joint Systems Review (JSR) of AFAS – India was undertaken by officers from AQIS and the Indian Department of Agriculture and Cooperation from 27 November to 8 December 2006. Fumigation facilities in Chennai, Tuticorin, Mumbai, Nashik and New Delhi were visited by the JSR team.

Representing AQIS on the JSR team were David Cox and Daryl Crapp. Peter Meadows provided technical specialist advice. The following Indian Government Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (PPQS) officers represented the Indian Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on the team:

- Dr Sathyanarayana and Dr S. Gnanasambandan of the Chennai regional plant quarantine station,
- Mr A. K. Rai of the Mumbai regional plant quarantine station and
- Dr S. C. Bansal, Deputy Director (Entomology), Government of India, Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage.

David Cox and Daryl Crapp would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to these officers for their time and patience in accompanying the AQIS officers during the JSR.

The JSR of AFAS – India was a worthwhile exercise as it provided an opportunity for the JSR team to see how the AFAS training



techniques have been adopted by the fumigators and to monitor compliance with India-AFAS.

AFAS Updates

The Official Launch of India AFAS



Photo: India AFAS official launch

To celebrate the implementation of AFAS, the Indian Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC) arranged an official launch event at the Hotel Ashoka in New Delhi.

Meredith Walton was invited to attend the event, held on the 31st of August 2006, along with the Australian High Commissioner in New Delhi, Mr John McCarthy AO and Mr David Ingham, Counsellor (Agriculture). The Indian Special Secretary Mr A.K. Singh, Mr Ashish Bahuguna, Mr Amand Shah, Mr D.D.K Sharma, Dr S.C. Bansal, Dr. P.S. Chandakur and many others also attended the event.

The ceremony in New Delhi was followed by official 'flagging off' ceremonies in Chennai and Mumbai which included fumigation demonstrations for some of the first consignments treated under AFAS India.

The official launch was the subject of media interest and articles on AFAS India appeared in several Indian newspapers.

Meredith Walton and David Ingham are most grateful to the industry personnel and DoAC officers who hosted the events and ensured that the commencement of AFAS in India was celebrated with style.

AFAS – Indonesia has been in operation since June 2004 and there are currently 82 accredited fumigation treatment providers registered under the Scheme.

AFAS – Malaysia has been in operation since 1 December 2005 and 41 Malaysian treatment providers are currently registered as part of Malaysia AFAS.

AFAS – Thailand was implemented in since March 2006. There are currently 37 treatment providers registered under AFAS.

AFAS – India was implemented on 1 September 2006 and there are currently 124 Indian treatment providers registered under AFAS.

AFAS – the Philippines

The AFAS Agreement between the Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and AQIS was signed in Manila on 19 May 2006 by Ms Lealyn Ramos, Director general for the Bureau of Plant Industry and by the Australian High Commissioner Mr Tony Hely on behalf of AQIS.

AQIS sourced fumigation and training experts from Peter Meadows Consulting delivered the first AFAS Philippines methyl bromide fumigation training and assessment courses to 62 BPI officers and Philippines fumigators during the period 22 May – 8 June 2006.

AQIS is currently working with Mr Larry Lacson, Agricultural Centre Chief II, BPI, on finalising the delivery of Train-The-Trainer training to selected BPI officers. This will enable the BPI to provide the necessary ongoing fumigation training to Philippines quarantine officials and fumigators and to finalise arrangements for the implementation of AFAS with the Philippines.

AFAS – China

A fumigation training Agreement between the Chinese General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and AQIS was signed in Canberra on 3 April 2006 by Chinese Vice Minister Li and Senator Abetz at Parliament House, Canberra.

The AFAS consultants Peter Meadows Consulting, accompanied by David Cox, were then kept very busy throughout 2006 delivering



the AFAS training to 160 Chinese quarantine officials in the following four locations around China:

- Nanjing in June/July 2006;
- Dalian in August 2006;
- Xi,An in September 2006; and
- Dongguan in October/November 2006.

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AFAS with Papua New Guinea

The AFAS team are pleased that they will be commencing working with their first Pacific Island partner on arrangements for the implementation of AFAS.

The National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority of Papua New Guinea will work closely with the AFAS team over the coming months to secure appropriate training venues and equipment. AQIS hopes that fumigation training can be delivered in Papua New Guinea in May this year.