



AFAS News

Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme August 2007 - Issue #5

THE AFAS TEAM

The team would like to thank everyone that contributed to making the inaugural AFAS Symposium a great success.



Day 1 speakers at AFAS Symposium in Jakarta

Due to the growth of the AFAS programme, the AFAS team has expanded to include Patricia Fox, Daryl Crapp, Justin Murray, Melessa Lawton and Gordon Weinert. The expanded team will provide additional support in conducting joint system reviews, as well as assisting AFAS countries and those countries looking to adopt AFAS.

We are now looking forward to a full calendar of AFAS activities. For your information, we have uploaded past issues of the AFAS newsletter to the AFAS website at www.aqis.gov.au/afas.

Since the Symposium, the AFAS team have been busy finalising reports and preparing funding applications to implement the outcomes of the event. All of us here in Canberra look forward to continuing to work together with you on AFAS during the rest of 2007.

David Cox

Manager – Offshore Development Unit
Import Clearance, Cargo Management and Shipping.

Team Member Profile



Name: Dr Justin Murray
Qualifications: PhD in Sociology
Previous
Occupations: University lecturer, Researcher, IT project manager, AQIS Officer.
Hobbies: Mountain biking, hiking, rally, Japanese language, photography

AFAS Symposium 2007 Jakarta, 17-19 April



Day 2 speakers at AFAS Symposium in Jakarta

The inaugural AFAS Symposium was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17-19 April 2007. The attendance of 140 participants from 17 economies, including government agencies, industry and trainers, exceeded all expectations and was considered a great success by all involved.



AFAS Symposium co-sponsor, the Indonesian Agriculture and Quarantine Agency (IAQA) worked tirelessly to arrange the fantastic venue, the field trip and Symposium events. It was a pleasure to work with our Indonesian counterparts.

The Symposium successfully brought together government agencies and industry currently involved with AFAS in an open and collaborative environment. Economies interested in future involvement with AFAS also participated.

Topics discussed included the implementation experience, AFAS training, the AQIS Standard, the AFAS methodology and its extension to other treatments, the future of AFAS, and administrative arrangements.

Several recommendations were identified and suggestions and opportunities for improvements to the Scheme were discussed. These included:

- moving toward multilateral arrangements,
- expanding AFAS to include other quarantine treatment options,
- harmonised audit training practices,
- improved communication,
- inclusion of exporters and shipping agencies, and
- the adoption of the AFAS methyl bromide standard as an international standard.

Updates and progress of the outcomes will be further discussed in the next newsletter.



The field trip to view an AFAS registered fumigation company and IAQA's purpose built AFAS training facility was particularly valuable in illustrating a model for other AFAS countries.

We would like to thank all of the speakers and participants that contributed to the success of the Symposium.

AFAS – AFAS Indonesia Joint Systems Review 2007

The second AFAS Indonesia Joint Systems Review was conducted from 28 May to 4 June 2007.

The AQIS Audit Team comprising David Cox, Patricia Fox and John Field (fumigation specialist), along with IAQA officers, audited 15 fumigation companies located in Medan, Semarang Surabaya and Jakarta.

The audit identified some technical problems, most of which can be easily rectified. However, a vast improvement in fumigation practice was noted since the last Joint Systems Review held in 2005. The Audit Team was very impressed with the enthusiastic attitude and commitment of the fumigators in addressing problems and improving practices.

The audit report and recommendations have been sent to the IAQA for its consideration.

Six Hectic Weeks on the Subcontinent - Secondment Report by Daryl Crapp, AQIS Offshore Development Unit

A six week work posting overseas for many people is a dream that rarely comes true. But the reality of that dream is a little different, involving long days of reviewing documentation and equipment, testing the knowledge of fumigators as part of an audit process, as well as travel that doesn't quite go to plan. My secondment included all of these and more!

My six week secondment with the Indian Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (PPQS) took place in March – April 2007 and covered a number of Regional Plant Quarantine Stations (RPQS) (New Delhi,



Amritsar, Chennai, Tuticorin, Mumbai and Kolkata).

The purpose of the secondment was to provide informal auditor training to Indian – Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (IAFAS) PPQS Officers at the various regional stations, conduct advisory audits of IAFAS registered fumigation companies, perform reaccreditation audits of suspended companies from the Joint Systems Review of December 2006, and to provide the Indian exporter community with information about AQIS import requirements.

During my secondment I was lucky enough to find time to see some spectacular sights and experience the culture of India, including:

- the Golden Temple in Amritsar,
- the lowering of the flag ceremony on the Indian/Pakistan border,
- the Mahabalipuram Temple and nearby Five Rathas near Chennai,
- sampling freshly crushed sugar cane from a street vendor,
- going to Elephanta Island in Mumbai, and
- seeing Taj Mahal and the Red Fort in Agra on my last day.

Significant achievements made during the secondment were:

- increased ability of PPQS officers to audit AFAS registered companies,
- familiarisation of AFAS registered treatment providers with the audit process under the scheme, and
- increased awareness of the Indian export industry of AQIS import requirements.

The hospitality and support of the RPQS staff was greatly appreciated by me, and the success of the secondment was due mainly to their organisation and commitment to IAFAS. A special thank you is due to the following officers:

Dr Bansal - Itinerary development and New Delhi liaison

Dr Nagia - Amritsar and Ludhiana liaison

Dr Sathyanarayana - Chennai and Tuticorin liaison

Mr Elangovan - Tuticorin liaison

Mr Rai - Mumbai, Nashik and Pune liaison

Dr Sinha - Kolkata liaison

Future AFAS Activities

Meredith Walton recently travelled to an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Brisbane to present two AFAS related proposals:

- providing formal audit training for quarantine regulators, and
- holding an AFAS regulators symposium in 2009.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

The Signing of Papua New Guinea (PNG) AFAS

In June, PNG and Australia signed an agreement to implement AFAS. The agreement was signed at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby by Mr Andrew Yamanea, Managing Director of National Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA), and His Excellency Mr Chris Moraitis, Australian High Commissioner to PNG. Meredith Walton also attended, representing AQIS.



At the signing, Mr Yamanea said the agreement “will go a long way towards improving current systems or protocols practiced by the fumigation industry in PNG and regulated by NAQIA.” He also thanked AusAID for providing funding to deliver the AFAS programme.

Mr Moraitis also welcomed the arrangement, stating the agreement “is good news for PNG and Australia. It is another example of how



working together brings benefits for both countries.”

Fumigation training started in July 2007, with NAQIA and AQIS delivering fumigation training to PNG quarantine officials and industry fumigators. AQIS will also work with NAQIA to establish fumigation company registration and audit programmes.

The AFAS team would like to thank the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, NAQIA, and the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy for their assistance in arranging the event and their support for the AFAS programme.

AFAS Updates

AFAS – Indonesia has been in operation since June 2004 and there are currently 87 accredited fumigation treatment providers registered under the Scheme. AFAS – Indonesia was audited May/June 2007.

AFAS – Malaysia has been in operation since December 2005 and 46 Malaysian treatment providers are currently registered. The next audit of AFAS Malaysia is proposed to take place from 3-10 September 2007.

AFAS – Thailand was implemented in March 2006. There are currently 38 treatment providers registered under AFAS. The next audit of AFAS Thailand is scheduled for late 2007.

AFAS – India was implemented on 1 September 2006 and there are currently 124 Indian treatment providers registered. AFAS – India was audited in November and December 2006, with the next audit scheduled for late 2007.

AFAS – Philippines is progressing, with AQIS continuing to work with the Philippines on finalising the delivery of ‘Train-The-Trainer’ training to selected Bureau of Plant Industry officers. This training is scheduled to take place in the Philippines in September 2007 and AFAS is anticipated to be fully implemented by 31 January 2008.

AFAS – China is also nearing completion, with the AFAS team delivering fumigation training to 160 Chinese quarantine officers in four locations around China throughout 2006.

China is currently organising further training for 1200 fumigators throughout 2007. It is expected that AFAS will be implemented in China during 2008.

The AQIS website lists all the approved treatment providers for countries operating under AFAS.

Information for Fumigation Companies Wishing to Change Details

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of registered fumigation companies contacting AQIS directly with changes to their details. This causes unnecessary delays in making changes to the list of treatment providers.

Registered companies are reminded that they should instead contact the AFAS government contact in their country about changes to their details. The overseas government then advises AQIS of any changes. Companies should report **ALL** changes to their details.

Contact details are available on the AQIS website at this address - www.daff.gov.au/aqis/about/contact/afas.