

**NUSATENGGARA ASSOCIATION INC.
2017 AGM MINUTES**

Sunday 22 October 2017
Rainbow Room, Southern Cross Club,
Woden, ACT



Welcome

Stephen announced he was chairing the meeting on behalf of Chair Ron Thompson who was unable to attend and welcomed attendees.

Stephen noted apologies received from interstate board members Rob Cramb and Ian Nuberg, and member Penny Godwin.

Approval of 2016 AGM minutes

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved. Minutes to be amended to reflect Lesley Potter's attendance.

Guest speaker address

Stephen welcomed Dr Justin Lee to deliver an address on Australia's engagement in Indonesia and current priorities and programmes. Dr Lee is the former Ambassador for Climate Change and former High Commissioner to Bangladesh as well as Counsellor Political Section in Jakarta. Dr Lee is the Australian Government's most recent Deputy Head of Mission to Indonesia.

Dr Lee stated the embassy is a great supporter of NTA. Alistair Cox will be the new DHOM from November and Dr Lee will encourage him to maintain a relationship with NTA. Foreign policy white paper will be reduced later this year and will cover the development cooperation programme. Reflected that Government needs to look at ways of leveraging community involvement with development as is done by NTA, and personally advocates for Government supporting NGOs leveraging expertise and fundraising efforts for international aid, as well as to help secure community support and interest. Dr Lee noted there is not a great understanding amongst the community about what the development cooperation programme does and it is the task of Government and the Department of Foreign Affairs to improve this.

Dr Lee stated that funding for the Indonesia programme at around \$300 million has been reasonably stable over the past few years. It is the second biggest bilateral program that Australia has. As Indonesia approaches middle income status many are asking about the impact of Government aid efforts in Indonesia and how much it is still necessary.

Dr Lee noted that in terms of agriculture DFAT's main focus has been on linking small producers with markets. This differs to previous approach as funds may not be reaching the 'poorest of the poor' - and assumes a 'trickle down' effect to the more disadvantaged.

Dr Lee noted lack of media reporting on Indonesia in the media in Australia beyond tourist incidents in Bali and Islamisation. Also noted dynamism in Indonesia which not well understood in Australia or reflected in the media including startups in IT sector, environmental conservation.

Foreign policy recently has become more transactional but genuine interest and understanding and people-to-people relationships across countries is still required to strengthen ties.

Colin noted his surprise at the small number of NGOs that receive a DFAT grant and the scope for increasing that number. Colin noted NTA's role in 'cementing relations' as discussed by Justin. Dr Lee responded that there is a high level of (necessary) conditionality and accountability that might be a deterrent to other NGOs, and DFAT is wary of risk.

Dr Lee noted the positive story of the large numbers of Australians involved in small business in Indonesia – often with Indonesian partners – and small NGOs.

Sean asked whether there might be role in NGOs like NTA mediating between Government and the Australian community and raising interest in Indonesia. Dr Lee responded that Government spreading itself outside of Jakarta and thereby becoming more engaged with smaller entities has helped.

Lesley raised that NGOs like NTA struggle with whether to focus on helping the majority or whether we should be focussing on most disadvantaged people while also prioritising.

Peter McCawley raised that the term 'national interest' fraught and a two edged sword: some Indonesians do not appreciate Australia talking about our national interest in the region because of the focus on self-interest and might be in Australia's broad national interest to focus on the region.

Ashlee raised that the Development Policy Centre has been investigating Australians' attitudes towards aid and has found that the term 'national interest' is less appealing to Australians and makes people feel less generous when thinking about aid.

Chair's Report

Stephen presented the Chair's report on behalf of Chair Ron Thompson. The report noted the progress in planning for Colin and Ria's impending retirement, and the crucial appointment of Stephanie Heighes as Operations Manager.

Stephen conveyed Ron's thanks to the Board, Committees and many volunteers for their efforts throughout the year. He mentioned the need for existing NTA members' assistance

in spreading the word about the good deeds we perform and expanding our supporter base.

Stephen further acknowledged the support of Inland Trading, various Rotary clubs, Oxide Interactive, and Dixon Advisory.

He finally acknowledged the support of DFAT and ACFID.

CEO's Report

Dr Barlow noted that NTA Indonesia has become a separate legal entity and employer of our Indonesian colleagues. This is the result of years of training and devolution of responsibility. This a huge achievement with significant implications for NTA's sustainability going forward.

Dr Barlow briefly mentioned three significant program achievements –

- (1) income generation and food security program – have exceeded targets for provision of inputs and training for tree crop improvement.
- (2) Water and sanitation program – exceeded targets for provision of tanks.
- (3) Education program – exceeded targets for training, trained 182 teachers in better library management and distributed over 1000 textbooks and fiction books.

Dr Barlow acknowledged the efforts of board member Peter Dawson and Executive Officer Phil Domaschenz in raising funds, and establishment and growth of support groups in other centres, and that fundraising efforts will need to continue to be prioritised.

Dr Barlow noted the appointment of a new Operations Manager (to replace previously appointed Operations Manager who resigned).

Dr Barlow stated his intention to continue as CEO for another year but will work alongside new Operations Manager Stephanie with a view to her managing operations by the end of 2018.

He further noted the increasing administrative efforts required and the time and resourcing required.

Dr Barlow acknowledged BPTP, NTA Indonesia, YPMF and YPMPS efforts in Indonesia, and the support of the Indonesian Department of Agriculture. Thanked Australian embassy in Jakarta, members of ANZ Association in Jakarta, Rotary Small Grants group, supporters of NTA in Victoria, AIA Victoria and AIA ACT, and the Rotary Club of Burley Griffin.

He noted with regret the passing of Bapak Ujang Seputra, BPTP officer seconded to NTA.

Finally, Dr Barlow thanked NTA's 10 000 participating beneficiaries.

Staff report

Executive Officer Phil Domaschenz presented the staff report on behalf of himself and Stephanie. A key improvement has been recruitment of an Operations Manager, increasing NTA's paid staff to two part-time officers.

One of the NTA's significant strengths is its strong volunteer base, which bring enthusiasm and keep NTA's costs low. As a result of their efforts almost all money we raise goes to our efforts in Indonesia.

Increasingly Stephanie will take a more active role in implementing NTA activities with our partner organisations and organising field visits.

EO increasingly preoccupied with DFAT reporting requirements. New challenges include enhancing policy and processes to adhere to new ACFID Code of Conduct, progressively improving systems for communicating with and providing feedback to our supporters.

Operations Committee Report

Dr Barlow noted the work of the Committee in reviewing the AD Plan and accompanying performance report and scrutinising proposed disbursements, and joining field visits among other tasks including checking child protection and anti-terrorism obligations. A sub-Committee formed to review and respond to ANCP comments following a late 2016 visit to NTA's area of operations.

Actively looking for a new Chair over the coming months.

Membership and Marketing Committee Report

Ashlee presented the report of the membership and marketing committee. The Committee continues to communicate with supporters via the NTA newsletter and social media, and deliver presentations to interested groups. Two major fundraising events for the preceding year were the NTA annual fundraising dinner and annual trivia night.

Key achievements for the Committee were unprecedented increase in membership and increased engagement with supporters over Facebook, which has helped us reach out to more Indonesia-based supporters.

Ashlee noted our supporters are very engaged with what we have to say, evidenced by the open rate of newsletters at 30 per cent.

Ashlee noted that the Committee is working to provide more timely and fulsome feedback to donors on outcomes of their donations, and seeking to recruit new members to the Committee.

Ashlee acknowledged the support of regular individual donors, Rotary Clubs in Sydney and Canberra, Mary Lou Minty, Inland Trading, Dixon Advisory, and the Southern Cross Club.

Finance Committee Report

Stephen Barry presented a report on behalf of the Finance Committee, with reference to the Financial Statements. Tabled the statements, which had been considered and approved by the Board.

Stephen drew attention to the declaration of the Board after considering the financial statements. He noted the statements had been independently audited by Prosperity Accounting Solutions.

Finance Committee noted net surplus of \$575 for 2016-17 compared to deficit of the previous year. Revenue streams made up of DFAT grant and monetary contributions, although total monetary contributions a seven per cent decline since the previous year. Noted total expenses also decreased (to approximately \$232,000) as did disbursements. Accountability and administrative costs have increased, primarily due to salary expenses.

Stephen concluded that NTA ended the year in a sound financial position. He thanked the honorary auditor Paul Clark for the audit of the financial statements.

Dr Barlow noted there were several contributions from Indonesia which are not included in the accounts – including DAP amount of \$20,000 – which were transferred directly to NTT during the year.

Election of 2017-18 Board

Stephen noted six nominations (from existing Board members) and some interest from others to be considered for appointment to the Board. We are in discussion with several candidates and are confident we can fill most of these positions over the next month or so in accordance with our skills matrix – noting our desire for someone with business / fundraising expertise and experience.

Member comments and feedback

Juris requested the Board consider providing a summary of the Board's deliberations and conclusions to the Operations Committee, as well as its formation. This would assist with informing the Operations Committee's deliberations. Stephen committed to conveying this to Ron.

Meeting closed at 12pm.

ATTENDEES

Stephen Barry
Kim Andren
Colin Barlow
Ria Gondowarsito
Phil Domaschenz
Ashlee Betteridge
Barbara Lynn
Lesley Potter

Sean Forster (U3A)
Peter McCawley
Penny Godwin
Justin Lee and partner
Cameron Grant
Kate Elliott
Carys Chan
Juris Jakovics