

The Policy Advisory Council

The Policy Advisory Council is established by s17 of the ACIAR Act. The function of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister regarding:

- (a) agricultural problems of developing countries;
- (b) programs and policies with respect to agricultural research for either or both of the following purposes:
 - (i) identifying agricultural problems of developing countries;
 - (ii) finding solutions to agricultural problems of developing countries.

The Council thereby fills a valuable overview role, advising the Minister, the Board of Management and the Centre on matters including:

- national and regional development constraints;
- opportunities for research and development collaboration;
- national and regional research priorities, particularly those of ACIAR's partner countries;
- the matching of Australian expertise (Australia's competitive advantage) with these priorities;
- modes of operation for ACIAR; and
- sources of national and international expertise.

Council meeting

To fulfil its role, the Council meets annually, in Australia, over several days. During 2002–03, it met in Perth on 19–20 March 2003, and in Adelaide to hold discussions with the Minister, on 21 March.

At its meeting, the Council gave priority consideration to:

- research priorities as set out in a draft of the Centre's *Annual Operational Plan 2003–04*;
- a review of ACIAR's achievements in 2001–02, with specific reference to the performance indicators in its Corporate Plan;
- a presentation from AusAID on emerging issues and trends in Australia's aid program; and
- perspectives on the status of R&D and current priorities in the countries represented on the Council. This standing item provides a unique opportunity for the Council members, individually and collectively, to discuss their countries' research and development priorities. It thereby forms a key input to ACIAR's planning processes and also, by bringing together policy makers from a range of Southeast Asian countries, India, China and Papua New Guinea, has the potential to highlight regional needs and opportunities, including bilateral cooperation between those countries themselves.

Membership of the Policy Advisory Council at the time of its meeting in Perth on 19–20 March 2003, and attendance, is set out in the following table.

Council membership

Membership of the Council is limited to 14, comprising a President, the Director of ACIAR, the Director General of AusAID or his nominee, and not fewer than nine nor more than 11 other members appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Members bring a range of agricultural and development experience. The Minister is required, under the Act, to ensure that a substantial number of the members of the Council are residents of countries other than Australia, and to have regard for the knowledge of appointees concerning the agricultural problems of developing countries or their experience in organising or conducting agricultural research.

Council costs

During 2002–03, the direct costs of the Policy Advisory Council were \$66 172. The comparable figure for 2001–02 was \$52 502.

Council membership

Member	Appointment and term	Meeting
Professor Elizabeth J Woods OAM Professor of Agribusiness School of Natural and Rural Systems Management University of Queensland Gatton, QLD	President 1/6/2000–31/5/2003 1/6/2003–31/5/2006	Yes
Mr Peter Core Director ACIAR Canberra, ACT	Ex officio member 31/7/2002–30/7/2007	Yes
Mr Bruce Davis (or his nominee) Director General Australian Agency for International Development Canberra, ACT	Ex officio member	Yes (nominee)
Dr Joko Budianto Director General Agency for Agricultural Research and Development Jakarta INDONESIA	Appointed member 19/11/1998–18/11/2001 1/3/2002–28/2/2005	Yes
Dr Patricio Faylon Executive Director Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development Los Banos PHILIPPINES	Appointed member 10/3/2003–9/3/2005	Yes
Mr Jia Jingdun Deputy Director General Department of Rural and Social Development Ministry of Science and Technology Beijing CHINA	Appointed member 10/3/2003–9/3/2006	Yes
Mr Donald G McGauchie Farmer and Company Director including several agribusiness companies Prairie, VIC	Appointed member 1/11/1994–31/10/1997 1/11/1997–31/10/2000 1/11/2000–31/10/2003	No
Dr Mangala Rai Secretary Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and Director General Indian Council of Agricultural Research New Delhi INDIA	Appointed member 10/3/2003–9/3/2006	No
Dr Graeme Robertson Director General Department of Agriculture – Western Australia Perth, WA	Appointed member 1/3/2001–29/2/2004	Yes
The Hon Sir Anthony Siaguru KBE Statesman and Consultant Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Appointed member 1/5/2000–30/4/2003	Yes
Mr Michael J Taylor Secretary Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Canberra, ACT	Appointed member 1/11/1997–31/10/2000 1/11/2000–31/10/2003	No (attended meeting with Minister)
Dr John Williams Chief CSIRO Land and Water Canberra, ACT	Appointed member 16/7/2002–30/6/2005	Yes
Professor Vo-tong Xuan Professor of Agronomy and Rector Angiang University Angiang VIETNAM	Appointed member 1/11/1997–31/10/2000 1/3/2001–29/2/2004	Yes