

Petra Kavunenko

From: Barry Patterson
Sent: 06 May 2010 12:26 PM
To: Stephen Passingham; Petra Kavunenko
Subject: FW: urgent help [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

1 - decision on extension.

Stephen/Petra,
Correspondence below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Philippa Venning
Sent: 06 May 2010 11:14 AM
To: Barry Patterson
Subject: FW: urgent help [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Ali Gillies
Sent: 06 May 2010 11:13 AM
To: Peter Heyward
Cc: James Gilling; Philippa Venning
Subject: RE: urgent help [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Peter
My apologies that this has been handled so badly.

Canberra will climb into it. I expect to have something sensible to tell Tony no later than end of tomorrow (hope it's sooner).

I'll come by to discuss.

Ali

Ali Gillies (Ms)

Minister Counsellor | Development Cooperation
AusAID | Australian Embassy
Avenida dos Martires da Patria
Dili | Timor Leste

s.47F

www.ausaid.gov.au

The Australian Government is committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals

-----Original Message-----

From: s.47F
Sent: 06 May 2010 9:16 AM
To: Ali Gillies
Subject: Fw: urgent help [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Ali, Can you have a look at this one and discuss please.

Cheers Peter

----- Forwarded by Peter Heyward/People/DFATL on 06/05/2010 09:14 AM -----

Tony Fry
s.47F

06/05/2010 08:49
AM

cc

Subject
urgent help [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Peter.

I need some help and hope you can give it.

This is the current situation:-

1. Griffith University and the Timorese Secretary of State for Culture are in the process of exchanging an MoU for training and curriculum development for the establishment of a college of creative industries. This to be part of a complex along with the National Museum and National Cultural Centre. Importantly this institution will come under culture rather than education (and is thus outside the still unclear polytechnic project).

2. As you might remember, funds for curriculum development were initially withheld because there was no local partner. The MoU confirms one now exists. In this context it was suggested by Wally Cook of the AusAID research office that it would be appropriate to request release of the withheld funds, thus a request was made when I submitted my annual report.

3. The annual report was submitted early (in mid March) in the hope that it would be approved and funding and activity would be uninterrupted and that curriculum development activity could commence. *

4. Nothing was heard and I contacted AusAid in Mid April. I was told the report was being handled by a new person (Ms Petra Kavunenko). I contacted her and she told me she had not looked at it as, and I quote, "I am not on top of the job yet". I phoned a few days later and I was told "I will phone back later in the day. She did not. Eventually she said "we are looking at it". I was told of Wednesday of last week that I would have an answer. I did not get one. She contacted me on Wednesday of this week to say curriculum development would not be supported. My conversation with her indicated she did not understand the issue. I asked for the matter to be reconsidered. She reluctantly agreed. Three points needs to be made:-

a) it makes no sense to fund research and to then to prevent it being implemented when the conditions for implementation have been established - effectively it means that the investment is written off.

b) the message to the Timor partner is a very bad one (who has moved a long way after a great deal of work to build the relation) - it could even put the project at risk.

c) there was no discussion (a reduced amount could have been proposed, its distribution of two years could be been looked at)

5. My people in Dili are not being paid and they cannot pay their rent (the University cannot invoice AusAid until the amount to be invoiced is specified in writing).

As you have agreed the project is significant. It must happen. The progress in Timor has been amazing. The Momentum at Griffith is growing (not least around the concert). Money has been budgeted to build the complex.

So can you please express a view to AusAID that indicated your support for the project to progress with curriculum development included? I am certain it's in our national interest and the return will totally outstrip the modest investment.

With best wishes,
Tony Fry.