



Australian Government
AusAID

Get into Volunteering

August 2005



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“The Australian Government values the significant contribution made by Australian volunteers working overseas. Their contribution is an integral element of the Australian aid program. Their time is valuable not just for the partners they work with, but for the volunteers themselves through the experiences they gain.”

Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Australian Government has provided support to Australian volunteers overseas since the 1960s. Since then, over 9,000 volunteers have been placed overseas with Government funding. With the expansion of the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program (AYAD) it is anticipated that over 800 volunteers will be placed each year under Australian Government supported volunteer programs.

The objectives of Australian Government support for volunteers are to:

- > Optimise the contribution of volunteers to Australian overseas aid program priorities;
- > Build the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities in partner countries through sharing skills and knowledge;
- > Foster linkages and partnerships between organisations and communities in Australia and those in developing countries; and
- > Raise public awareness of development issues and the Australian overseas aid program in the Australian community.

Volunteer placements are made with public and private sector, non-government and civil society organisations and educational institutions, in priority areas identified by partner countries and AusAID country program strategies.

In 2005-06 the Australian Government is providing \$26.5 million to support the volunteer program to send Australian volunteers overseas. This represents \$16 million for the Australian volunteer program and \$10.5 million for the AYAD program. In recognition of the contribution young Australians are making to volunteering as Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, the Prime Minister announced in 2004 that an extra \$24.5 million will go to the AYAD Program over the next four years.

BECOME AN AUSTRALIAN PARTNER (AP)

To encourage greater community involvement, Australian organisations, be they government departments, educational institutions, NGOs or private sector enterprises, can become an AP. APs may already have, or want to develop a relationship with organisations in eligible countries.

Working with the volunteer service providers (VSP), APs can develop an appropriate assignment with an overseas organisation linked to their organisation's skills and knowledge base to expand their networks in the eligible country.

APs can nominate an appropriately qualified candidate to undertake the assignment or the VSP can source a suitable candidate on the APs behalf.

Expand your business opportunities, become an Australian Partner organisation.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR DEVELOPMENT (AYAD)

The AYAD Program was launched by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Alexander Downer, in 1998. The aim of the Program is to strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and countries of the Asia-Pacific region whilst making a positive contribution to development.

The AYAD program places young Australians between 18 and 30 on short-term assignments (3-12 months) in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. AYADs exchange skills and knowledge with local counterparts to strengthen the capacity of overseas host organisations.

AYADs also develop linkages and networks between partner organizations in Australia and those in developing countries, and gain overseas professional development experience.

Priority sectors for the AYAD program are health, education, governance, rural development, environment and infrastructure.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS (ABV)

ABV's approach to poverty reduction and sustainable growth is to focus on strengthening the private sector which is seen as the engine of development. ABV volunteers are mature, qualified and experienced Australians who possess skills in a wide variety of fields. They are professionals, business and trades people. Through sharing their work skills and sound governance practices, ABV volunteers help build capacity and sustainability of micro, small and medium-sized businesses.

Each year ABV undertakes between 200 and 300 short-term assignments (1 – 3 months). ABV has a continuous volunteer recruitment and dispatch procedure enabling rapid response to clients' needs.

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL (AVI)

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) recruits, prepares and supports Australian volunteers who live and work in developing communities. As an international volunteer sending agency supported by AusAID, AVI and its volunteers are committed to achieving long term development, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.

AVI works with partner organisations in host communities to ensure that placements respond to locally-identified needs. Volunteers are skilled professionals from the education, health, community development, finance, IT, communications, rural development, trade and engineering sectors.

AVI provides short and long-term volunteer placements in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.

VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM AUSTRALIA (VIDA)

Volunteers for International Development from Australia (VIDA) is a program that enables Australian citizens and permanent residents aged 18 and over to undertake volunteer assignments in Asia and the Pacific to make a tangible contribution to sustainable development in host countries.

The program provides pre-departure training, in-country support and post-return debriefing to volunteers undertaking development assignments lasting between 1 and 36 months. As part of the Australian Government's overseas volunteer and international aid programs, VIDA, in cooperation with partner organisations, aims to assist developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development through skills transfer, institutional strengthening and capacity building.

* Countries to which volunteers are sent change according to Government priorities.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact the following organisations for details on how you can make a contribution to overseas development as a volunteer.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR DEVELOPMENT (AYAD)

PACIFIC – Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu
ASIA – Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand (regional assignments only), Vietnam

Level 2, 81 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8232 3050
Fax: (08) 8223 4703
e-mail: ayad@austraining.com.au
www.ausaid.gov.au/youtham

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS (ABV)

PACIFIC – Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu
ASIA – Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand (regional assignments only), Vietnam

FECCA House
4 Phipps Close Deakin ACT 2600
Telephone: (02) 6285 1686
Fax: (02) 6285 1424
e-mail: info@abv.org.au
www.abv.org.au

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL (AVI)

PACIFIC – Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

ASIA – Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand (regional assignments only), Vietnam

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST – Afghanistan, Lebanon (Palestinian refugees), Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Palestinian Territories, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

71 Argyle Street
Fitzroy VIC 3065
Telephone (03) 9279 1788
Fax: (03) 9419 4280
e-mail: info@australianvolunteers.com
www.australianvolunteers.com

VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM AUSTRALIA (VIDA)

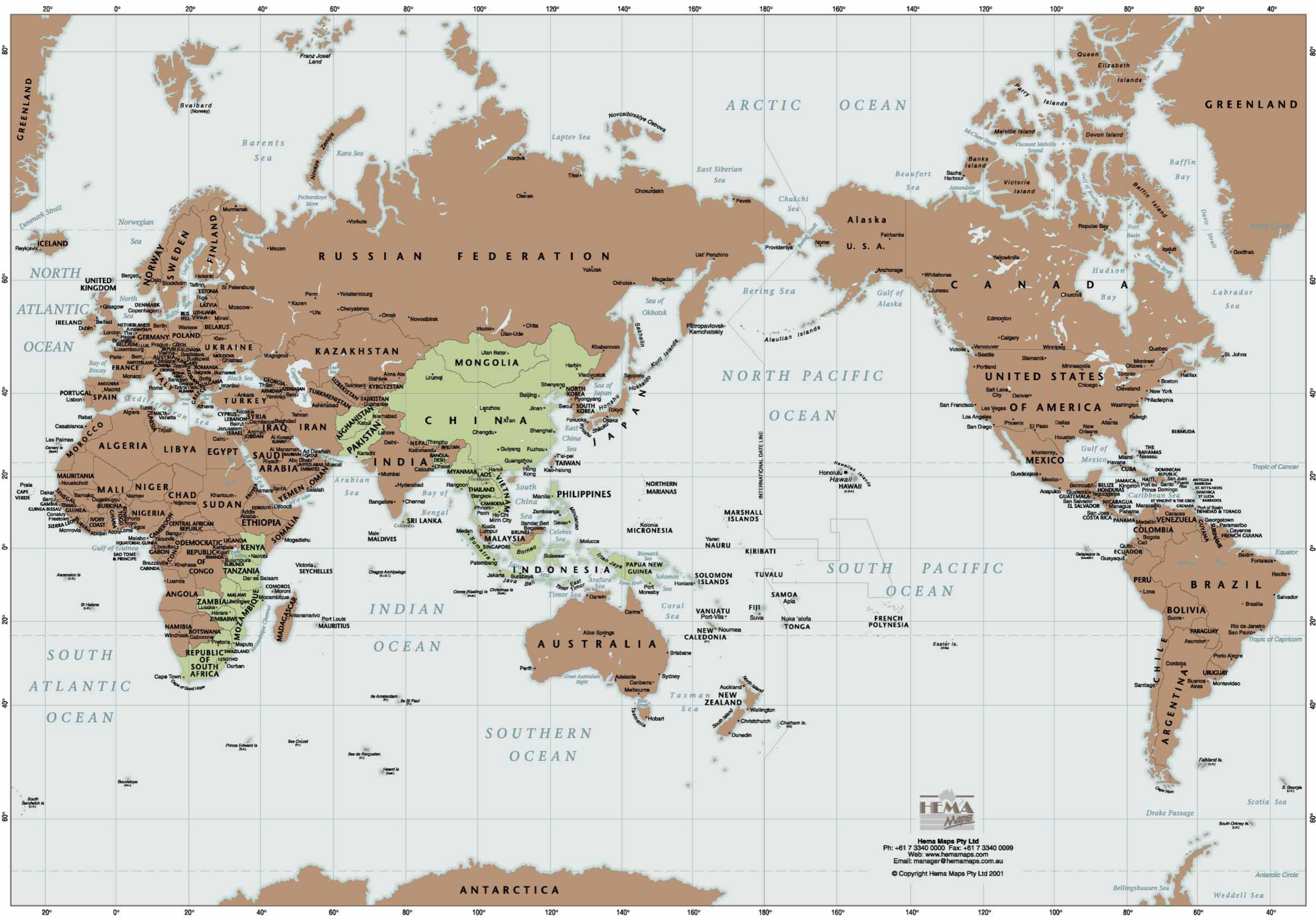
PACIFIC – Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

ASIA – Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand (regional assignments only), Vietnam

Level 2, 81 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8232 3050
Fax: (08) 8223 4703
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WORLD MAP LEGEND:

-  Countries to which Australian volunteers are currently sent
-  Capital City
-  City/Town



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Telephone 02 6206 4000

The Government's volunteer policy,
*Volunteers and Australian development
cooperation, August 2004*, provides the
policy framework for government
support for overseas volunteers.

For details of volunteer programs
supported by the Australian
Government or for a copy of the
volunteer policy see AusAID's
website www.aisaid.gov.au