

2/2/2011

This submission calls on the Australian Government to:

- End the practice of using aid to further Australia's national interests:
 - Remove the explicit reference to national interest from the aid program's objective.
 - Establish AusAID as a separate department to foreign affairs with a Cabinet level minister responsible for international development.
- Recognise that the impacts of climate change will drastically undermine development prospects for low-income countries:
 - Commit to at least A \$2.1 billion per year funding for climate aid, commensurate with Australia's contribution to global ODA.
 - Ensure that this climate aid is new money, not funds redirected from other development priorities and that it is aimed primarily at assisting the most vulnerable communities.
- Improve the transparency, accountability and monitoring of Australian aid spending:
 - Separate the Office of Development Effectiveness to become a body independent of AusAID, as for the UK's Independent Commission on Aid Impact. <http://aidwatch.org.au/where-is-your-aid-money-going/what-you-can-do/aid-review/how-to-help-make-aid-fair - transparentaid>
 - Publish timely, accessible and detailed information about all aid initiatives. <http://aidwatch.org.au/where-is-your-aid-money-going/what-you-can-do/aid-review/how-to-help-make-aid-fair - commercialaid>
 - Publicly release all parts of commercial aid contracts which do not satisfy the Department of Finance and Administration's 'Confidentiality Test'.
 - Assess Aid on the basis of outcomes achieved, not on outputs or monitoring of funds expended.
- Reduce the proportion of aid money spent on Technical Assistance (TA) to (minimum) the OECD average. TA needs should be identified by aid recipients and use local advisors or 'south to south' advice wherever possible in preference to external advisors.
- Demonstrate how Australia's policies on trade, investment, finance, migration, security and climate change are consistent with the promotion of poverty alleviation, gender equity and sustainable development.
- Recognise and extend on the existing body of practice generated knowledge in the aid sector of methodologies and strategies for developing individuals', groups' and organisations' capacity beyond simple technical assistance programs.
- Recognise and actively promote the fact that human resources are the major assets - of the Australian Aid program and the means by which it is successful or otherwise:
 - Develop a code of conduct for consultants and ensure it is applied and used.

- Develop and apply a set of objective competencies for aid workers that include technical skills, cross cultural / global leadership competencies, management and leadership skills, motivation, and commitments to values and attitudes consistent with the philosophy of participation and strengths-based capacity building.
 - Provide a systematic framework of resources to support organisations to provide training and mentoring to aid actors to implement these competencies in their volunteer and paid workforces.
 - Actively undertake initiatives that build the capacity of local people in developing communities to become advisers, consultants, facilitators, and mentors using participatory methodologies in their own countries and regions as well as others with relevant development contexts.
- Shift the overall approach of the aid program from problematising development to using participatory, strengths-based approaches (SBAs).
 - Focus on community driven development, broad consultation and community involvement at all levels of program and project design, management, delivery and evaluation.
 - Expand the use of local small funding grants programs to enable local community initiatives to access aid funds and enhance their local grassroots development activities.
 - Apply the notion of appropriate technology to aid activities ¹
 - Require all aid providers to demonstrate how their initiatives are guided by host governments, communities and civil society organisations in the planning, implementation and evaluation of aid initiatives.

This will enable Australia to more effectively deliver its expanded funding to aid activities and ensure quality outcomes for communities consistent with Australia's international obligations to the principles outlined in the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness international human rights standards and the MDG's.

Yours Sincerely,

John Jablonka

John Jablonka is Principal Consultant of Cross Cultural Consultants international Development. The company has provided training, mentoring and other capacity development services to a range of actors in Australia's aid program including AusAID, International and local NGO's in developing communities in Asia and the Pacific, Australian Managing Contractors and individuals. John has designed, managed and delivered training in Australia, South East Asia and the Middle East on programs for volunteers, students, communities, governments and staff across all sectors. As a consultant facilitator with Governments and NGO's in cross cultural work and organisational development, he uses

¹ See the centre for Appropriate Technology for further information on this successful concept applied to local appropriate sustainable solutions for development. <http://www.icat.org.au/>

strengths-based participatory planning, evaluation and learning methods to maximise outcomes for diverse teams.