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## **The Royce & Jean Abbey Agricultural Scholarship - Sponsored by the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowment Fund**

**THE ROYCE & JEAN ABBEY ENDOWMENT FUND** was established by **The Rotary Foundation** through the monetary support of the 1988-89 Rotary District Governors in the year Royce Abbey was the President of Rotary International.

Past District Governors, Richard Wallace, District 7470 and Al Slaggert, District 6310, canvassed Past District Governors of 1988-89 and a fund was established within **The Rotary Foundation** to recognise the success of their year.

The Fund was approved by **the Trustees of the Foundation** in December 1999 with the following conditions:

- (1) The earnings of the fund could be used when the balance reached US\$150,000.
- (2) The earnings were to be used for Humanitarian projects to enhance the capabilities of Food Processors, Foresters, and other Agricultural and Environmental Researchers and University Teachers from **developing countries** to use new skills in their home countries.
- (3) Each application for funding was to be made through **The Rotary Foundation**.

Training will be conducted in Australia at various Universities and Institutions over approximately 3 months, and administered at no cost to the Rotary Foundation by **The ATSE Crawford Fund** which is the world's most successful National support organisation for international agricultural research and training for sustainable food and fibre production.

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The selection, processing and counselling of potential candidates is supervised by Royce Abbey, a past Rotary International President and Alex Buchanan, a past Ambassadorial Scholar and member of District 9800 Foundation Committee. Both are members of The **ATSE Crawford Fund** Committee (Victoria). **Details** are available from The **ATSE Crawford Fund** or the Rotary Club of Essendon (Royce Abbey's Home Club).

Each fellowship covers travel, accommodation and tuition up to approximately US\$10,000. for a period of 3 months. A certificate is presented after the successful completion of a scholarship. Each awardee is encouraged to visit Rotary Clubs during their stay in Australia and after returning to their home country.

**The Royce & Jean Endowment Fund has sponsored agricultural scholarships to the amount of US\$50,000 since 2001. Each awardee has since returned to their native country as follows:**

(1) **Mrs Emilyn Kopania** Deputy Headmistress at Mercy College, Yarapos (an island off Wewak Papua New Guinea) was nominated by the Rotary Club of Goroka, Papua New Guinea (PNG). Emilyn was in charge of the Agriculture curriculum at Yarapos High School. During her 3 months stay from 3rd February to 29th April 2001, Emilyn Kopania visited The University of Melbourne regional campuses and farms, liaised with teachers in various poultry farming, horticulture and food science, and processing institutions, speaking at various Rotary Clubs during her stay.

On her return she submitted plans to the District Education Board in Wewak, PNG for the establishment of a Vocational College. This was accepted and on the completion of her 2 year at the Goroke University, PNG, she will be appointed to head the new college.

(2) **Ms Retno Setyowati Gito**, Head, Demography Research Centre, Sebelas Maret University in Central Java, attended courses in agricultural and resource economics and agricultural business management at the University of Melbourne. Her visit and experience with contacts in Australia have benefited Indonesian farmers with improved production and assisted in the marketing of their produce. She was nominated by the Rotary Club of Solo Kartins, Indonesia. Her stay was from 26 July to 18 October 2001.

(3) Three senior personnel from the Philippines Bureau of Agriculture attended an intensive Master Class in Research Management in Agriculture. They were **Dr Lealyn Abellanosa-Ramos**, Manager, Northern Mindanao. **Dr Edilberto Diaz Redona**, Deputy Director, Philippine Rice Research Institute **and Dr Rustico David**, Chief of Regional programs.

The course was conducted by The *ATSE* Crawford Fund and the Asia Centre at the University of New England, NSW in Sydney from 7th to 20th October 2002. Drs Ramos, Redona and David participated along with 3 East Africans and 14 Indonesians, in case studies, field visits and interacted with the professional staff in discussion sessions. The experience has had a major benefit to careers in their home countries in the field of research management. Dr Ariel Ang, President, Rotary Club of Los Banos, Philippines D3820 endorsed the selection of these three Philippines participants.

(4) **Celestino Belo Correia & Igildo do Santos Xavier**, dairy farm workers from Fuiloro Agricultural College, Timor Leste, visited The Christian College, Geelong to increase their farming skills. They engaged in TAFE studies in Geelong and worked at the college farm campus at Scotsburn and visited various dairy farms in Victoria where their farming skills were further extended. During the last week they travelled to Queensland to further their knowledge in artificial breeding. They stayed in Australia from May to July 2003.

The manager reports their enthusiasm and work ethic was excellent and major progress was noted over the 3 months. The experience not only improved their knowledge of farming and related activities but also improved their English. There is no doubt their experience will be of great value to the dairy project in Fuiloro in their efforts to provide more protein to children in the area. Their selection was made by Kiwanis International who are supporting the Dairy in Fuiloro.

(5) **Antonio Joao da Costa**, from the new Agriculture Faculty at the National University of East Timor was at the University of Melbourne from 1 September to 1 December 2003. He trained as a laboratory manager and visited rural campuses.

### **SUMMARY**

Our Fund is of great value to the individuals, institutions and the countries they represent. This is a great hands-on program providing opportunities to students in developing countries with great potential, under the banner of The Rotary Foundation. **As the grants to support the program can only come from the earnings of the Fund your continuous publicity, interest and contributions to the Royce & Jean Abbey Endowment Fund are encouraged.**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Major contributors to date include:

Past Governors of the Class of 1988-89, their friends and many Rotary International Districts;  
The Rotary Clubs of Essendon, Melbourne and Melbourne-Latrobe;  
PDG Allan & Charlie Tew, RC Johannesburg, South Africa.

I am grateful for the co-operation and assistance of the following individuals and organisations who have provided the vehicle to conduct these programs and have given their support:

Chairman, members and staff of The *ATSE* Crawford Fund, Victorian Committee;  
Staff at the Institute of Land & Food Resources, The University of Melbourne;  
Past President, Dr Alex Buchanan, member Rotary District 9800 Foundation Committee;  
The Rotary Foundation, John Osterland General Manager;  
Trustees of The Rotary Foundation.

**Royce Abbey AO DCM  
President Rotary International 1988-89  
Foundation Trustee 1989-94**