

Travel Completion Report February 10 to 18, 2005

Traveler: Gordon Tsuji

Purpose:

- (1) Assist Richard in handling the affairs related to the repatriation of Andre's remains;
- (2) meet with staff to learn of their desire and participation to continue our efforts; and
- (3) assure MAFF and USAID of continuing activities described in our action plan.
- (4) meet with CRS to discuss progress on candlenut concept paper.

Narrative:

This travel was initiated within a day after learning of Andre du Toit passing in Baucau. With the loss of du Toit, it was essential for the University of Hawaii to have presence in country. Richard Ogoshi was enroute to Dili when we learned of du Toit's death and arrived on Thursday, February 10, a day after the mishap. Ogoshi suspended all planned activities to assist the du Toit family. He helped to arrange for the family to leave Dili on Friday, February 11 to return to their families in South Africa.

The University of Hawaii acknowledges the timely support provided to the du Toit family by the USAID mission in Dili, in particular, Chip Oliver and Flynn Fuller. Mrs. Carin du Toit, Andre's wife, was officially introduced to the mission a month earlier as our project's country coordinator. Jessica Pearl of the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and her staff are also acknowledged for the support provided to the du Toit family. Shawn Stein and Landon Carter of the U.S. Embassy in Dili provided much needed support in assisting us in finalizing arrangements for the repatriation of du Toit's remains. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by all.

On arrival in Dili on the 13th, Richard had many of the tasks related to repatriation of Andre's remains and organizing the family's personal effects under control. He assumed full responsibility of the project and was doing an outstanding job. We met with both Francisco Soares and Fernando to learn first hand of events related to Andre's passing.

Andre du Toit and Family

The shocking passing of Andre du Toit left all of us with a sense of great loss. Richard Ogoshi arrived on the 10th and took on the responsibility of our project and the University of Hawaii. He did extremely well in working with USAID and the U.S. Embassy staff, especially with Shawn Stein and Landon Carter. Chip Oliver and Flynn Fuller provided tremendous help and comfort to Carin in her time of crisis. All who met her under this situation remarked how strong she was throughout. Jessica Pearl of CRS was especially helpful to Carin. She provided Carin the needed "family" support during the evening hours of the day of Andre's death and on Thursday with Richard. They both were guardians of the family and provided for their needs.

Fuller had accompanied Carin to the UN criminal investigation morgue to positively identify Andre's body on Wednesday.

Jessica recommended to Carin she and her children leave immediately for South Africa to be with Chip Oliver (USAID/Dili) who worked with Shawn Stein (U.S. Embassy) who was in contact with Medex immediately after learning of Andre's passing. Richard assumed this role upon his arrival in Dili. Medex did not act as quickly as we had envisioned. Their office in London wanted a copy of the death certificate before arrangements would be made for a flight out of Dili. The medical examiner at the UN, Dr. Nurul, indicated he'd do the autopsy as soon as he received word when that flight was arranged.

With Stein's help, Medex finally agreed to arrange for the flight to leave on Wednesday, February 16, 2005. The autopsy was performed starting at 2PM on Tuesday, February 15 and required 6 hours according to information Richard received from Dr. Nurul.

The casket was moved from the UN morgue at 7:30AM to Dili Airport and placed on the Air North flight to Darwin for embalming before the final trip to Johannesburg.

On Tuesday, February 15, I accompanied Fernando Sousa and Armando da Costa to Baucau as they provided official statements for the police investigation of Andre's death. The police showed me two photos of the accident scene. The police had tentatively reported it as an accidental death with no foul play involved. They retrieved two auto batteries and two inverters from the accident scene and had them at the police station.

USAID

I met Angela Rodrigues of USAID/Dili at the airport in Denpasar on Sunday, February 13. She was enroute home from meetings in Bangkok and had learned of Andre's death through a phone call from Fernando Sousa, our project's associate country coordinator. I asked if Richard and I could meet with her, Chip Oliver and Flynn Fuller on Monday. She agreed to call me to confirm. I later received a call from Oliver asking if we could meet at 3PM on Wednesday after I had had time to meet with our local staff and with MAFF.

Topics of the meeting included 1. Our immediate plans to continue project activities in the absence of the watershed agronomist and 2. The no-cost extension request to extend the project from June 30, 2005 to December 31, 2005.

1. We related the outcome of our meetings with key local project staff and with MAFF. We have a consensus to continue from both groups. Activities outlined in our action plan will move forward.

2. A draft document of a no-cost extension was submitted to Angela Rodrigues for review. Fuller indicated if documents for the no-cost extension request are in order, he did not envision any problems in approving the extension. The document should be reviewed by our CTO, Michael McGahuey.

On the subject of the University's interest in having a continuing presence, Fuller asked if UH and the CRSP are prepared to continue working in E. Timor beyond the current

phase. My response was affirmative. He asked what we'd consider doing. I responded by stating we'd develop a program based on interaction with the mission and the ministry so we will address issues related to the mission's strategic objectives and the ministry's goal and objectives.

I mentioned to Fuller, as background information, when we started our project, the minister wanted to have us working in two watersheds but we determined it best to work in one. Now, with our experiences in Baucau and knowledge of other watersheds from soil maps, we would consider assessing the transferability of our accomplishments to other watersheds. When asked if we'd be conducting similar activities in other watersheds, I replied no. It would be too expensive. We'd use Baucau as a demonstration and training site and that the MAFF staff would be responsible implementing the transfer of technology and experiences. He fully supports a participatory approach.

We informed Fuller we were working with MAFF on a soil map of the country that will serve as a natural resource inventory that can be used in the technology transfer process.

MAFF

We met with MAFF staff as the minister was out of town to assure them we would continue our program. Claudino Nabais, Julio Correira, Bio Ferreira, and Rob Williams were those we met with. We met with Bio at the Land and Property office, Ministry of Justice on Wednesday. He introduced us to Wine Langeraar who provided us information and a copy of the soil map. Richard will be checking out the map to determine if it corresponds to the Portuguese soil map with 1969 FAO legends. On first view, it appeared to be a duplicate of what Bio showed us earlier. The map may be an updated version and needs to be confirmed. Bio will secure air photos to be used with the soil map per a request from Patrick. According to Wine, Bio has approval to share the photos and map per agreement with the vice minister of justice. Land and Property will be sending two of their staff to Thailand with Julio and 2 others from MAFF next month.

CRS

Jessica Pearl of CRS as reported above provided much personal support to the du Toit family and also had her local staff retrieve personal effects and project cash from the Baucau house with permission from the police. This is how Carin was able to recover Andre's wallet and the project's cash box. Jessica and I arranged to meet in Baucau on Tuesday as she had meetings there. We first met at the police station to meet with the chief of police. Together we conveyed our thanks and appreciation for the professionalism demonstrated by the police in handling the case and for their cooperation in allowing us to retrieve personal effects.

Later that day, I met for 2 hours with Jessica at the CRS office in Baucau. The discussion centered on Andre and the candlenut project. Jessica and Andre were good friends. As he mentioned during our meeting in Honolulu, both he and Jessica agreed to disagree.

We reviewed the outcomes of the meetings held in Honolulu. She indicated she had met privately with Dana Gray of Oils of Aloha on Saturday but could not reach mutual agreement on strategies for the concept paper.

CRS and Oils of Aloha have agendas that have the same common interest but are apart on the management of the project. In response to a recommendation from Goro Uehara's email to her to involve the Pacific Business Center in the College of Business Administration at the University of Hawaii as the management entity, she did not have a problem with it and reported that Bruce Tolentino of CRS in Manila did not find that objectionable.

The first draft of the concept paper submitted to those who participated in the meeting in Honolulu indicated CRS saw their role differently from UH and Oils of Aloha. CRS requested comments from UH and Oils of Aloha and was awaiting them when we met in Baucau. Both UH and Oils of Aloha see the role of CRS as handling the community development aspects of the project with Oils of Aloha as handling the management and operations of the oil extraction facility.

From our discussions, the "bottleneck" appeared to be production of excess oils that CRS felt that should be made available for sale on the open market. Oils of Aloha had indicated during our meeting in Honolulu there would be no excess oils as they would extract only an amount that they could process at their plant in Hawaii. If Oils of Aloha is expected to provide resources and expertise to build the plant, it would not make good business sense to produce more oil to sell to their competitors, if there are any. Understanding of what a niche market is could be crucial to removing this bottleneck.

CRS feels the concept paper is "not that important". The full proposal will deal with the details on issues being raised. I assured Jessica suggested changes to the draft of the concept paper should be forthcoming from UH and Oils of Aloha. A second draft prepared by UH with inputs from Oils of Aloha was forwarded to CRS after my meeting with Jessica in Baucau.

Project Staff

On Monday, we met with Fernando, Francisco, Jose Ximenes, and Benjamin Guterres at the Farol Hotel. Nina Amaral was in Indonesia to receive her diploma in economics. The local staff were unanimously positive in response to a question of whether they wish to continue the efforts of the project in Baucau as carried forth by Andre. From verbal responses of farmers in the various community groups involved in the land use trials, most were of the opinion that the project would end with the death of Andre. We learned of an outpouring of concern and sympathy from many. Fernando reported Andre was well known to many in the community.

Fernando asked if Richard could serve as Andre's replacement. Richard and I advised Fernando we'd consider that option.

We worked on the financial arrangements to continue. There are gaps in what we know. Carin responded affirmatively to remaining on the payroll up to the end of March to help us with the arrangements she established with Andre. It's an outstanding effort.

Her reporting of project activities to USAID was well received by Angela and will need to be maintained as part of our quarterly report. Andre was planning to do the past quarterly report on his return to E. Timor. Richard and I will work on it now and share it with team members before posting it on the project's URL.

Itinerary:

February 10 Depart Honolulu
February 11 Arrive Singapore at 12:15AM on the 12th
February 12 Depart Singapore at 4:30PM and arrive Denpasar at 7
February 13 Arrive Dili
February 15 Travel to Baucau to police department
February 17 Depart Dili for Singapore via Denpasar
February 18 Arrive Honolulu