



Australia's International Development Contractors Community

BOARD MEETING – FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2020

MINUTES

Attendees: Therese Faulkner, Bernadette Whitelum, Joanne Choe, Nicky Thatcher, Stuart Schaefer, Richard Moore

1. Apologies: nil

2. Approval of previous minutes of Board Meeting 24 April 2020 – to be circulated and approved out of session.

3. Reports:

(i) Financial Report

Balance is lower than previous due to payments made to :

- Kris Kathiravel in the order of \$23,000
- Chris Crewther – payment of 50% of total fees = \$5,775
- ATO \$532
- CMS \$326 – noting that last month we paid \$1205. This reflects request to keep services to a minimum

Closing balance = **\$26,429.15CR**

(ii) Secretariat Report (includes membership update)

- Discussions held with potential new members Tradeworthy, Equity Economics and Goodwill Media
- Membership forms being developed on-line by DiscoveryDigital with good results
- Prototype website developed by DiscoveryDigital is looking great – still work to do
- Gearing up for AGM 24 June 2020 – resolution drafted to change the constitution with a proposal to expand membership options to include not-for-profit organisations provided they are aid program suppliers, and limiting them to associate membership status, with no provision for voting, or for nominating for board positions
- Membership paper being developed to incorporate associate memberships and enhanced memberships for regular members

Action: Nicky to complete member paper to send to members next week

4. Update from Research and Policy Officer

- Nothing to report, with Kris Kathiravel's work program currently on hold.

5. Current Issues

- New policy – Partnerships for Recovery
 - o Thanks to Richard Moore for preparing media statement
 - o Therese has sent to media outlets and has asked CMS to load onto the IDCC website
 - o Richard noted DFAT invited IDCC to the stakeholder briefing with just a few hours notice; whereas ACFID seemed to have much more notice, and was able to send 3 people and have a press statement prepared very quickly
 - noted that it is in DFAT's interest to treat the IDCC as a full stakeholder, with IDCC less likely to be highly critical of policy issues as compared with ACFID

Action: Therese to establish relationship with DFAT media contacts

- Austrade survey
 - o Link to be sent to IDCC members in next Member Update
- IDCC Survey of employees and locations
 - o Therese noted that responses from members were patchy
 - o Jo noted pressure on organisations to complete the PERFORMS data
 - o Agreed that a cut-down version of the survey should be developed
 - o Richard noted how useful it was in meetings with parliamentarians to share information on numbers of people across the region, even as an estimate
 - Noted some ignorance from parliamentarians on their line of thinking that NGOs have a strong presence but contractors don't
 - o Would be ideal if DFAT could provide the info via PERFORMS, but unlikely to meet our needs in the short term

Action: Therese to revise the survey and contact members to provide simplified data

Action: Therese to extract data from the survey to date on PNG, Solomon Islands and Indonesia

- Planning for AGM
 - o Discussion on face-to-face vs Zoom meeting
 - Decision to hold AGM via Zoom only
 - o Agreed to hold a Member Forum with speakers and Q&A following the AGM
 - Could be used to canvass ideas for the next year's strategic plan

- Expansion of Board directors

A motion to expand the number of directors from 6 to 7 was moved by Therese and seconded by Nicky. Agreed by all.

Board decision: The Board unanimously agreed to expand the number of Directors from 6 to 7

- AP4D
 - o Richard noted the next AP4D forum would be held on 10 June via zoom, with registrations via Eventbrite; no cost

6. Other Business

- Chris Crewther, IDCC's advocacy consultant, provided an overview to the Board about his progress to date on briefings and meetings with Ministers and other parliamentarians
 - o Initial intent was to meet with Ministers Hawke and Payne followed by others
 - o Have now met with Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Alex Hawke, and with Julian Hill and Senator Eric Abetz (chair of the relevant senate committee)
 - o Have lined up meetings with Dave Sharma (chair of Foreign Affairs and Aid sub-committee), David Fawcett, Pat Conroy
 - o Have met with Minister Payne's adviser, but cannot get a meeting with the Minister until August/September
 - o Briefings prepared for each meeting, cleared by Richard and Therese
 - o Meeting with Alex Hawke went well
 - Minister said they were not inclined towards a cap on the proportion of the aid budget going to contractors
 - Supportive of the need to utilise contractors in response to COVID-19
 - o Good response from Eric Abetz and Julian Hill too
 - Positive views of the contracting community