

Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation, promoting sustainable technology and practice in order to protect our environment



International Projects Group - Expression of Interest

The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is an Australian organisation that works to promote technologies that protect the environment. It is a source of expertise on renewable energy, sustainable building and appropriate technology.

The ATA International Projects Group (ATA IPG) is a group of professionals and volunteers from Australia with expertise in sustainable technologies. The group has completed the installation of over 40 solar lighting, refrigeration and power systems in remote areas of East Timor. The systems have been installed in health clinics and a range of other community and public buildings where no regular power supplies were available.

Technical skills and industry contacts ensure the best systems are developed for each location with special attention paid to developing low maintenance systems. The installation teams include electrical engineers, certified installers and Australian and local volunteers.

Projects for 2007

We are calling for expressions of interest for projects in East Timor and other Asian or Pacific countries. It's important that these projects are at the request of the communities that host them. Projects with a source of funding are easiest for the IPG to complete. We may also be able to find funding for projects without resources of their own.



We would be particularly interested in hearing about:

- o Projects where there is no alternative source of power available;
- o Projects that will help improve community health;
- o Projects to improve schools, community centres, water supply, or government offices;
- o Technology for local business initiatives, or agriculture;
- o Existing solar systems requiring repair or spare parts;
- o Local people eager to undertake training.

We require:

To conduct successful projects, the IPG requires communities to provide us:

- o Completed expression of interest form (see page 3);
- o Support and a contact person;
- o Co-operation and information during the planning stages;
- o Basic food and accommodation while the project is underway and;
- o Transport while the project is underway.

If there is a reason why the community cannot supply these requirements, please note this on your application. If you

know of a project that might be appropriate, please provide us with the information requested overleaf or contact us to talk through the possibilities.

Objectives of the IPG

Activities are chosen which meet the following objectives:

- o Assist communities to gain access to sustainable technologies which are appropriate to their needs;
- o Provide communities with the resources, materials and skills which help them to alleviate poverty;
- o Empower communities to make their own decisions on how to improve their quality of life;
- o Provide ATA members and staff with the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and skills to work on projects that assist communities in developing countries.

Process for selecting projects

STEP 1: Project Identification

Communities, partners or IPG members can nominate potential projects for inclusion in the IPG "Potential Projects" database. This list will be continuously updated.

STEP 2: Expression of Interest

Project proponents complete a project "Expression of Interest" form on page 3. This form documents the project outline, beneficiaries, partners and outcomes

STEP 3: Project Development and Feasibility Assessment

Based on the Expression of Interest form further research is undertaken regarding the project. This research will assess issues regarding feasibility such as site location, system requirements, sustainability, logistics, timing, difficulty and funding arrangements. Project development is a two way process with the IPG and project proponents working together to develop a system that is acceptable to all with regards to system design, implementation and funding.

STEP 4: Assessment Using Project Support Criteria

The IPG cannot assist all projects. We have limited time and resources to implement our projects. Using the Expression of Interest form and the Feasibility Assessment, projects are selected which meet the IPG objectives and according to the following criteria:

- a) Project uses appropriate technology;
- b) Community involvement in project selection, construction and maintenance;
- c) Likelihood of sustainable outcomes;
- d) Difficulty of implementation;
- e) Funding availability;
- f) Timing.



STEP 5: Project Development

Projects that have been selected are further developed with regards to technical, logistical and funding arrangements.

STEP 6: Project Implementation

Project implementation commences with the first system procurement. Other implementation activities include transport and shipping, logistics, travel, construction, installation, testing, training and reporting. Training is an essential component of project implementation and a variety of system users need to be trained using appropriate language training materials.

STEP 7: Ongoing Energy System Management

The project beneficiary is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the installed system. However in East Timor the IPG has implemented a monitoring plan for systems on its annual visit.

Contact

For more information contact the IPG Program Manager Anton Vikstrom

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Working title of project	
Name and contact details	
Description of possible work	
Location	
Who can supply local support - accommodation, transport, interpreter.	
Who can supply ongoing maintenance.	
What community needs will the project answer?	
How did the local community choose this project?	
Technology alternatives to this project eg diesel generator etc?	
Potential donors and sponsors	
Does your group have a sponsor? eg District Administration, Rotary, Oxfam, Church etc.	