Project Title: Assessing risks with pig movement in Eastern Indonesia

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One Sentence Project Summary: A PhD opportunity is available to work on risk assessment of pig movement in Eastern Indonesia, which comes with a $25,000 p.a. tax exempt scholarship.

Project Synopsis:
Management of animal and animal product movement is an essential component of control programs for transboundary animal diseases (TAD). This PhD project, focusing on the critical TAD of pigs in Eastern Indonesia - classical swine fever (CSF) - will strengthen capacity for effective disease control by identifying pig trade patterns that are high risk for CSF transmission in Nusa Tenggara Timor (NTT). The knowledge gained will support formulation of policy by Indonesian government agencies designed to restrict, manage and/or monitor these pig movements. By improving CSF control in this region of Indonesia close to Australia, this PhD will contribute to pre-border protection for CSF which is exotic to Australia.

The PhD candidate will participate in:
- Collection of data on pig movements and related drivers in NTT
- Conduct of risk assessment to identify the highest risk pig movements for CSF transmission
- Estimation of risk reduction likely to be achieved by alternate mitigation strategies (such as restriction, vaccination, surveillance of pig movements).

This PhD project is a component of a large project hosted by the University of Sydney and funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) that seeks to improve TAD disease control in Eastern Indonesia through use of risk and economic assessments to support policy development.

Other Information: (e.g. scholarships/funding available, etc.)

A PhD scholarship valued at $25,000 per annum (tax exempt) is available for an Australian citizen or permanent resident enrolled full-time for 3 years to participate in this project. The PhD program will support the risk assessment of pig movements for CSF transmission in NTT. It will involve several fully funded trips to project sites in West Timor, Flores, Lembata and Sumba. The student is likely to spend a 6-12 month period based in Kupang, West Timor during 2009/10. For this scholarship we seek a graduate in veterinary science or agricultural science with an interest in a career supporting the livestock industries in Australia and the wider region.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, copy of an academic transcript, proof of citizenship or permanent residency, the names and contact details of at least two referees should be sent to Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio, Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney, Private Mailbag 3, Camden NSW 2006.

All interested applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain further information from Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio + 612 9351 1609, fax + 612 9351 1618, or e-mail jennyt@camden.usyd.edu.au

Closing Date: 29 August 2008