

Forward

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Foreword

The conference in 2004 was the tenth in an annual series established by the ATSE Crawford Fund to help raise awareness of the need for, and aims of, international agricultural research, and the important role that Australia plays in this.

The conference was opened by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon. Alexander Downer. In addition to warmly welcoming the speakers and members of the audience, the Minister made two important announcements.

Following a review of the activities of the Crawford Fund, the Government agreed in principle to continue past support of the Fund by providing an annual grant to the Fund of \$650 000 for five years. This important contribution, augmented by significant funds from a variety of other sources, will enable the Fund to plan its continuing contribution to Australia's aid program with confidence. Our current activities are described in *A Catalyst for Change: International Agricultural Research*, available through our website.

Dr Meryl Williams, a contributor to these proceedings, has been appointed the new Chair of the Board of Management of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and President of its Policy Advisory Council. Dr Williams has a distinguished record in fisheries and has held a number of senior positions both here in Australia and overseas. She is the immediate past Director-General of the World-Fish Centre and is a past Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Her new appointments are for three years from 5 August 2004.

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