



Lincoln Alumni International Medal

Tony Ryan

Tony Ryan's services as an international development consultant have been keenly sought by several development agencies, especially the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

He was regarded as being highly knowledgeable of South East Asia, particularly Indonesia and Cambodia, and Pacific-island rural development issues.

He has a Diploma in Agriculture, a Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management and a Bachelor of Agricultural Commerce (Economics) from Lincoln University.

Over Tony's 35 year career of working to reduce poverty and improve food and financial security, he was valued for his pragmatic approach to project design and implementation, and his capacity to build effective relationships at all levels, from village farmers to senior officials.

He has led multi-disciplinary and multi-national teams, with an ability to take a situational overview and to introduce innovative project design.

Tony was able to identify and apply appropriate technology in areas of under-development, improve the productivity of rural land users and their market access and influence, and bring about sustainable social

and economic change in communities by changing knowledge level skills, social cohesion and attitudes.

He has worked on 103 assignments in 21 different countries and spent two years as a resident project adviser in both Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands.

In addition to his professional development work, Tony has made two significant voluntary contributions to development in Tonga and Kyrgyzstan.

In 2005 Tony initiated the Kyrgyzstan-New Zealand Rural Trust, which he has also chaired. With financial help from the Morgan Foundation and MFAT, the Trust aimed to remove poverty from rural livestock-based communities in mountainous areas of Kyrgyzstan - more than halving rural poverty across 24 villages within 10 years.

In 2007 with local Tongan support, he instigated the NGO MORDi-Tonga Trust to engage in the sustainable development of isolated island rural villages. Beginning with a \$100,000 budget, MORDi now implements a \$14 million programme across 190 rural communities.

Tony Ryan is a worthy recipient of the Lincoln Alumni International Medal 2021.

The Lincoln University Alumni International Medal is awarded to a former student or a past or current staff member of Lincoln University, who has made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field of expertise, and has brought credit to Lincoln University through achievements in a country other than New Zealand.

Professor Bruce McKenzie
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor