

After the Aceh earthquake, an organization called the International Skills and Training Institute in Health or ISTIH was established, and its goal was to provide training for health workers, principally in the Asia Pacific region. It says on their website that the founding members were Professors Michael Henderson and Bruce Robinson, but I have to acknowledge and honour Michael in this regard. It was all his idea and his vision, and his entrepreneurial skills that really set this thing up. I was just the medical/scientific backup to help advise with regard to what sort of medical training would be necessary.

So, for example, when we were contracted by DFAT to provide a disaster response training course in Aceh and also back in Australia for Indonesians, I was the one who led those courses, but that was Michael's vision. And he deserves the recognition for having set this thing up.

Its goal was to mobilize staff in the region and help to develop and support new and existing training programs in medicine, nursing, and allied health and to develop new programs in other regions. And it also developed a Volunteers for Health program, a joint initiative with the Western Australia Department of Health to facilitate placement of health professionals with international volunteering opportunities.

Because of this, Michael and also myself, but again I emphasize Michael is the main person here, was awarded an Entrepreneur of the Year Award. I've enjoyed watching Michael do all of this and enjoyed learning from him, and I admire him a lot. And he's gone on to deliver such programs in Nepal and Myanmar, though I don't myself have much involvement now.

In these images, you can see the first one is about partnerships in training. Everything we do is done in partnership. We don't come in as the kind of white patriachs to tell them what to do. We only ever, and continue to, work with people in equal partnership to honor each of the partners, a bit like a marriage if you like. The second picture is of Michael and I flying I think in a helicopter somewhere. The third is of a hospital training program, one of the main early programs was done at the RSCM Hospital in Jakarta, the main hospital there, via a center called ICTEC, the Indonesian Clinical Training and Education Centre. We worked in collaboration with them. The final pictures are of us with some team members - it's forming links with colleagues in Indonesia that has been effective a lot of fun and enabled us to deliver these programs.