

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 Public Hearing - 27 August 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Australia's trade and investment relationships with countries of the Middle East

REFERENCE: Hansard, P. 4

Senator O'NEILL: Sorry, I have not got any idea about any of this and I am new to the committee, so if you could lay out the land for me. Internationally, where do we have prominent positioning? Where are we on the ground?

Ms Yuncken: On the ground CSIRO has an office in Chile. We have a small laboratory in Montpellier in the south of France. That is mostly focused on biosecurity work. We have a couple of people who are based overseas either seconded into other organisations, such as Boeing in the US, or as contractors helping us to build relationships in markets like south Asia.

Senator O'NEILL: So how many contractors would you have?

Ms Yuncken: I do not have the data with me, but I am happy to take that on notice and provide you with that information.

Senator O'NEILL: Would you be able to provide on notice a bit of a mud map of who is where and what they are doing?

Ms Yuncken: Sure.

ANSWER

Location	Positions			Roles
	Staff ¹	Contractors	Secondees ²	
Chile	32			Staff perform a range of duties including research; operational and administrative duties; scientific technical support; and staff and project management
France	3			
India		1		Providing on-ground support for major in-country water projects
Indonesia		1		Providing on-ground support for a major research project, as well as seeking new opportunities for collaborative projects in country
Laos		1		Providing on-ground support for a biosecurity project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).
Pakistan		2		Providing on-ground support for major in-country water projects
USA			2	Support CSIRO's commercial partnerships in the USA, as well as exploring new commercialisation and licensing opportunities
Total:	35	5	2	

Notes:

1. A mixture of indefinite staff, term-contract staff and post-doctoral students
2. Australian staff seconded offshore

REFERENCE: Hansard, P. 8

CHAIR: Is there a reason why you are getting involved in renewable energy projects in Saudi Arabia and the UAE? Is there a particular reason for that, apart from the obvious; that is, they have a lot of sun.

Ms Yuncken: We do not have projects active at the moment, but we have some prospective projects where we have put in tenders to take part in projects.

CHAIR: Are what those projects are in confidence?

Ms Yuncken: No, but I do not have the information with me, I am afraid.

ANSWER

Information about the tenders is commercially sensitive in nature, so we are unfortunately unable to provide any further details.