

Australia offers study grants

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MANILA, Philippines -- The 2009 Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships is receiving applicants, according to Australian ambassador-designate to the Philippines Rod Smith.

"The ALA Scholarships is a prestigious program open to current and emerging leaders in the Asia-Pacific region" Smith said.

ALA is one of the Australian government's programs managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) which gives over A\$133 million annually in scholarships through its aid program.

The scholarships are for study at the master's and doctorate levels in Australian universities. Up to 150 scholarships are being offered in 2009 in the Philippines and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Scholars will be selected on the basis of leadership qualities and academic achievements. Sixteen scholars were selected from the Philippines in 2008.

Awards are open in all fields of study, but programs related to the priority themes of shared regional interest -- international trade, pandemics, security and climate change, including clean energy -- are encouraged.

The deadline for submission of applications is June 30. Further information may be obtained at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm>