

**James William Mangan**  
(6 December 1943 – 8 August 2008)

**The following statement was released by RTI at the time of Jim's death:**

James Mangan, passed away Aug. 8 in Perth, Western Australia. Mangan was 64 at the time of his death. The funeral took place on Friday, Aug. 15. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and children. He is remembered by colleagues in Indonesia and elsewhere for both his skills as a leader and his friendship with those who worked with him.

Mangan had been working in Aceh, Indonesia as a provincial coordinator of RTI's Decentralized Basic Education 1 (DBE1) program before succumbing to cancer in Australia, where he made his home. Mangan joined RTI in 2006, bringing with him an impressive resume as a development expert, including some 20 years of experience working in the Indonesian education, local government and agriculture sectors. Over the course of his career he led or consulted on many donor-funded projects aimed at helping the people of Indonesia.

"Jim did an outstanding job representing USAID and RTI in Aceh for the past two-and-a-half years," said Dan Moulton, who was Mangan's manager for the DBE1 program. Noting that numerous international donors have been active in supporting Aceh's rehabilitation and recovery from the December 2004 tsunami, Moulton said, "Several of these donors have many times the funding of DBE1, but Jim's professionalism and the skills and experience he and his team brought to the education agenda are valued as highly by stakeholders as the largest contributors. His staff will dearly miss his leadership and friendship."

**Excerpts from the Eulogy at his funeral.** (Full text available [here](#))

...In 1971 James returned to the US, and from 1973, for the next five years studied at and worked for the Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts, bar one year working on a UNESCO project in Maluku and Irian Jaya, Indonesia. At U Mass in 1977, James attained his Masters degree in Education, and was awarded a Doctorate in Education in 1981. James came from field experience, to theory; and then forever back to the field, applying his new learning in service to humanity.

Professionally, James was an education, curriculum development, training, communications and management specialist; project manager; program director; and advisor. These roles were in the domains of education, regional planning and management, land use planning, and Integrated Pest Management. He worked for

national governments, governmental aid agencies, national universities, international NGO's, and the international institutions: UNESCO, the World Bank and the FAO. A colleague described James as *an educator who touched so many minds and became the trainer of many, many generations of teachers and trainers.*

...

James was courageous. He was sincere, genuine, honest and truthful. He did not believe in 'face' and 'fronts', and Indonesians found this intriguing. A friend commented, *James was always "apa adanya" – "what you see is what you get" ...no need to decipher his words or intonations.* A colleague recalled at Provincial Coordinator's meetings, *I often look forward to hearing Pak James' two cents, because they were funny and refreshing!* James had a huge, deep belly laugh. If something wasn't funny, he would not laugh at all. He was fondly known for his *dry...and sharp sense of humor.*

It is one thing to talk; it is another to do what you say. There was no gap between James' talk and walk, nor his walk and talk. A colleague describes him as *an unbreakable worker who always completed the given task. Always, without fail.* He was responsible, accountable and trustworthy. ...

#### **A note from Jim's wife Marg soon after he passed away said.**

*James has taken that final step and winged his way to the Abha Kingdom.*

*At 1.40am on August 8, 2008, surrounded by his four daughters, myself and a very loved long-time friend, James breathed his last in this world. The past two days he had been becoming more agitated, and weaker, often calling out "Let's go!", "I want to go!". Then he would say "And then?", and to any response from us "And then?" followed by "Let's go!"*

*Loving friends had come earlier to pray at James' bedside, to say their farewells to him, and to share their favourite memories of James. There was a warm, loving atmosphere in his room, and the nursing staff left us alone. James passed from this realm to the next with the words of Baha'u'llah accompanying him.*

*Thank you all for your loving emails to James. All of them were read to him - and all of them lifted his spirits. While he seemed at times to be surprised by the wellspring of love that streamed through this computer, he also seemed to revel in it - each one of you is very dear to his heart.*

*Much love, Marg - Australia [mstmangan@westnet.com.au](mailto:mstmangan@westnet.com.au)*