

## JOHN SKERRITT

## AUSTRALIA

Current Position: Deputy Secretary  
Agriculture and Fisheries Services  
Department of Primary Industries, Victoria

John Skerritt is currently the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria, Australia's largest agricultural exporting state. He has responsibility for 1200 staff and a \$ 250 million budget covering agriculture, fisheries, farm forestry and biosecurity activities. He is also an adjunct full Professor in agriculture at the University of Queensland and has been recognized by Thomson-Reuters as one of the 200 most highly cited researchers internationally in agriculture.

He was formerly the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) where he served for over a decade. He has developing-country experience in research management in over 20 countries in Asia/Pacific/ Africa and has also managed long-term projects in India, and delivered training courses in Indonesia, Thailand, India, East Timor, Ecuador and Lebanon. Dr. Skerritt holds a Bachelor of Science degree, First Class Hons, from University Medal, and a PhD from the University of Sydney. He trained in finance and management at the London Business School and the Australia - New Zealand school of government in Public Administration. In 2005, he was elected Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering for contributions to and leadership in Australian Agricultural Science and Technology.

His Board experience:

- GTTAC (Ministerial appointment for gene technology policy and GMO approvals in Australia)
- Meat and Livestock Australia, Strategic Science advisory committee
- Director, International Society for Food and Agricultural Immunology
- Associate Referee, AOAC International
- Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Task Force, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development
- Participant (although not a member under the ACIAR Act) in all ACIAR Board and Policy Advisory Council meetings

Some of his major awards are:

- 1977 John West Prize, Sydney University (For highest matriculation grades in NSW)
- 1980 John Coutts Scholar, University of Sydney (First place overall in Faculty of Science)
- 1983 Neville Percy Prize (ASCEP) for research by an Australian under 40
- 1990 CSIRO Plant Industry Chief's Award for Research Excellence
- 1993 Edgeworth David Medal (Royal Society of NSW) for "Excellence in Research"
- 1994 Murex Diagnostics Award (Australian Society for Microbiology) for Research in Agriculture and Food Sciences
- 2005 Elected Fellow of the Academy of Science, Technology and Engineering for contribution to research management
- 2006 Institute for Scientific Information (USA) "Most Cited" award – for international research in cereals/ agriculture published between 1990 and 2000
- 2007 Medal for Advancing Rural Development, awarded by Prime Minister of Cambodia  
Citation and Medal for Contributions to Agriculture, Vietnam Minister of Agriculture and Rural development