

A story of inspiration

JOHN Coutis has inspired a new young generation of Border students with his amazing tale of achievement.

Perhaps one of the world's most severely disabled motivational speaker, Mr Coutis told the Step To The Future leadership forum he has moved forward.

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World action to halt pandemic Australia backs bird flu alliance

UNITED NATIONS: Prime Minister John Howard has committed Australia to a new international partnership to combat bird flu, saying there is a high possibility of an epidemic in the Asia-Pacific region.

US president George W. Bush outlined the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, aimed at limiting the spread of the



own region should prepare for that," he said.

Health Minister Tony Abbott will attend a special international health ministers' meeting in Canada later this year to discuss global preparedness, while the issue will be prominent at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November, Mr Howard said.

demtic preparedness and respo- spending \$18 million since 2000 combat avian influenza and SAR.

Mr Howard also committed \$3 billion over three years to the Standing Fund for the Peace-kill Commission created by the UN week to help fragile states rec- from wars and conflict and incre- Australia's contribution to the