



Australia Indonesia Partnership

Kemitraan Australia Indonesia



Indonesia Update November 2006

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Australia Helps to Strengthen Detection of Avian Influenza in Indonesia

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer recently announced Rp11 billion (A\$1.6 million) to strengthen the capacity of Indonesian Disease Investigation Centres to diagnose the Avian Influenza virus in poultry.

The project will see Australia working closely with Indonesia's National Committee for Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness to manage the regional threat of Avian Influenza.

Managed for AusAID by the Australia Animal Health Laboratory, the project will help national, regional and provincial laboratories in Indonesia rapidly investigate suspected Avian Influenza cases and outbreaks, train Indonesian laboratory staff and provide essential laboratory equipment.

The project is part of a Rp 107 billion (A\$15.5 million) package pledged by Australia to combat the virus in Indonesia.

Of the Rp 107 billion pledged, Australia is already implementing projects worth over Rp 62 billion (A\$9 million) to address Avian Influenza in Indonesia, including assistance to support rapid response teams, the purchase 50,000 courses of the antiviral medication and the development of a national Pandemic Preparedness Plan for Indonesia.

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New AusAID Health Adviser appointed

AusAID has appointed a new Health Adviser to work with the Government of Indonesia in identifying national level interventions that will strengthen Indonesia's health systems, with a likely focus on issues such as health financing and health insurance.

Dr David Dunlop, a health economist, joined AusAID from the Dartmouth Medical School in the United States, where he was Adjunct Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine.

During his career, Dr Dunlop has moved between academia and development practice, including around nine years of long-term consulting to the World Bank. He has had assignments in 46 different countries; including in the development of Sector-Wide Approaches in Ethiopia, Uganda and Bangladesh. He has developed plans for social health insurance and other equity-related measures in Vietnam, Laos and most recently in Tonga. From 1979-1982 Dr Dunlop served as an adviser to USAID. He has edited two books and written numerous articles on health financing.

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Aceh Aquaculture Rehabilitation Project commences

An Australian-funded project to assist shrimp farmers in Aceh recover from the tsunami commenced last month.

The first aim of the project is to rebuild the hatchery and research facilities at Ujung Batee to allow the Regional Brackishwater Aquaculture Centre, which was badly damaged in the tsunami, to regain its operational capacity.

The second aim is to provide training and skills development to the centres' staff to assist in meeting the needs of the aquaculture industry in Aceh.

As the immediate needs for temporary housing, water and sanitation have largely been met in Aceh, there is now a stronger focus on rebuilding livelihoods to provide long-term economic stability.

Coastal aquaculture was an economically important industry in Aceh, worth around US\$56 million per annum prior to the tsunami.

The Aceh Aquaculture Rehabilitation Project is funded by the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development (AIPRD) through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The project is implemented by James Cook University in partnership with the Indonesian Directorate General of Aquaculture (DGA) which is part of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

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New housing database for West Aceh

An Australian-led project has created a housing database that is expected to increase the pace of housing reconstruction in West Aceh District and beyond.

The system developed by the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development (AIPRD) under its LOGICA Program was launched by the Head of AusAID in Indonesia, Ms Allison Sudradjat, at the Data Centre in Meulaboh.

The system identifies people without a home of their own and links them with organisations that can build houses, ensuring that people who need a house get one, allowing them to re-start their lives.

The Centre will help address delays in the reconstruction of housing in West Aceh District and beyond - delays that have been caused by a lack of accurate information about housing allocations and land ownership following the tsunami.

The AIPRD's LOGICA Program has already mapped over 60,000 parcels of land in Aceh, a vital pre-requisite to rebuilding permanent housing. This new housing database will complement the success in land mapping, and accelerate the pace of housing reconstruction in West Aceh and beyond.

The housing information and Data Centre is jointly funded by AusAID as part of the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development, in collaboration with USAID and the district government of West Aceh.

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The Director of the BRR visits Australia

Dr Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Director of the Aceh and Nias Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BRR) visited Australia in September to update donors on the progress of reconstruction in Aceh.

During his visit, Dr Kuntoro expressed his appreciation for Australia's aid to Aceh and Nias and reported that the Australia Indonesia Partnership had made a positive contribution to reconstruction in Aceh.

Dr Kuntoro provided an update on reconstruction progress generally, and requested Australia's support to build the capacity of the local Acehese government in managing its responsibilities under the new Law on Governing Aceh (LOGA).

AusAID is exploring options to support the development of Aceh's public sector through the Australian Government's newly established Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship Program.

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Construction of Bali Eye Clinic to be completed by March 2007

Construction of the Australia Bali Memorial Eye Clinic is progressing well and is expected to be completed by March 2007. The Clinic is expected to be declared open in July 2007, following the installation of equipment and the provision of training.

When fully operational, it is anticipated that the clinic will make a valuable contribution to reducing blindness in Bali, particularly in poorer communities. In addition, the centre is expected to improve the skills of ophthalmology surgeons and, over time, become a centre of excellence in Indonesia and possibly throughout the Asia Pacific region.

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New HIV/AIDS planning underway

AusAID has commenced planning to explore options for continuing Australia's long-standing partnership with Indonesia on HIV/AIDS. Australia's main HIV/AIDS initiative in Indonesia, the Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project (Phase 2), is due for completion in August 2007.

A planning mission recently visited Indonesia to assess needs and recommend priorities for Australia's future assistance. The mission met with key stakeholders, including the National AIDS Commission, the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and other bilateral donors and undertook field visits to existing projects.

Amongst its findings the mission noted the strengths of Australia's current HIV/AIDS program in Indonesia, including its expertise in harm reduction approaches and its support for comprehensive responses to HIV across multiple risk behaviours.

Australia is committed to retaining a significant long-term program to assist Indonesia in combating HIV/AIDS.

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Governance Research Partnership endorses three new research projects

The Australia Indonesia Governance Research Partnership approved its first raft of research proposals this month.

The Australian-funded initiative is designed to sponsor and promote collaborative research between Australian and Indonesian scholars that addresses the most challenging governance issues.

A Steering Committee comprising five Australian scholars, five Indonesian scholars, representatives from the Australian National University, Bappenas, the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, AusAID, and Australian Treasury met in November to consider a list of twelve research proposals.

The three agreed research projects address the allocation to and use by local governments of Special Allocation Funds (DAK), the recovery of small-to-medium businesses following the Yogyakarta earthquake, and human resource management under regional autonomy.

A further meeting to consider resubmitted research proposals will be convened in March 2007.

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Indonesia Update – 2006 Year in Review

A special edition of Indonesia Update will be published in December, called *2006 Year in Review*. The edition will revisit the major achievements of the Australian aid program in Indonesia over the course of the year.

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WEBSITE LINKS

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Australian Embassy

www.indonesia.embassy.gov.au

Health

www.harap.com.au

Education and Training

www.indo.aisaid.gov.au/sectors/educationandtraining.html

Economic and Civil Governance

www.indo.aisaid.gov.au/sectors/governance.html

Security and Stability

www.indo.aisaid.gov.au/sectors/security.html

Humanitarian Assistance

www.indo.aisaid.gov.au/sectors/emergencyhumanitarianassistance.html

Eastern Indonesia

www.indo.aisaid.gov.au/projects.html

Australian Partnership Scholarships

www.apsprogram.or.id

Australian Development Scholarship

www.adsjakarta.or.id

Learning Assistance Program for Islamic Schools

<http://www.indo.aisaid.gov.au/projects/lapis.html>

Note that this November update does not provide detailed information on the implementation of agreed programs. This information will be provided on a monthly basis, with the next full update scheduled for distribution in early December 2006. In the interim, any questions about program implementation or regarding this Update should be directed to Allison Sudradjat, Minister Counsellor on 3924322 x 501.