



Australia Indonesia Partnership

Kemitraan Australia Indonesia



Indonesia Update September 2006

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Training for health professionals in Aceh well underway

Over 100 women attended nursing training in Aceh last month under an Australian program designed to build the strength of the Acehnese health workforce.

Australia's Health Assistance Rehabilitation Aceh Program (HARAP) conducted the courses which included orientation and emergency training for nurses.

An additional 40 participants are currently involved in emergency medical training and a course in advanced trauma life support has recently been completed.

Australia's assistance to the health sector amounts to over Rp 223 billion (A\$32 million) and has both infrastructure and human capacity building components. In one of the programs' major achievements, the refurbished emergency ward at the main hospital in Banda Aceh, was opened last year.

In total, in excess of Rp 1.7 trillion (A\$250 million) has been committed by Australia to reconstruct and rehabilitate Aceh Province. To-date, more than Rp 1 trillion (A\$150 million) has been spent by Australia in the Province.

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New Health Adviser for Indonesia

AusAID has advertised for a senior health adviser to work in partnership with the Government of Indonesia on the coordination of high level health issues, particularly in relation to maternal and neonatal health.

The adviser, who is expected to start next month, will also contribute to important work already underway in areas of HIV AIDS and other communicable diseases.

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Australia and Indonesia share thoughts on good corporate governance

Chairman of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), Jeff Lucy, made a visit to Jakarta in July, chiefly to promote the relationship with the Indonesian Capital Market Supervisory Agency (Bapepam-LK).

His program included meetings with the Minister for Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati accompanied by Australian Ambassador Bill Farmer; discussions with Bapepam LK Chairman, Dr Ahmad Fuad Rahmany and officials from Bapepam, the Ministry of Finance, and the Jakarta and Surabaya Stock Exchanges among others.

Mr Lucy delivered a speech on "Good Corporate Governance: A Shared Responsibility" at the "Indonesia Investor Forum: Challenges and Outlook for Indonesian Capital Market".

At a lunch hosted by Chairman Fuad, Ambassador Farmer placed the significance of the ASIC-Bapepam LK partnership within the broader context of the strong Australia-Indonesia cooperation on economic and financial governance. Sri Mulyani also acknowledged the value of Australian assistance provided to her Finance Ministry.

Mr Lucy's visit was organized as part of Australia's Government Partnerships Fund (GPF), which together with ASIC, is forging strong people-to-people links with Bapepam LK, through training, workshops and seminars in Jakarta and secondments and internships in Sydney.

Since February, 280 Indonesian and Australian officials have been brought into contact under GPF initiatives for training and exchanges of expertise, 12 Australian agencies are partnered with 15 counterparts and more are contemplating similar engagement.

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Australian Ambassador Opens Teacher Training Laboratory in Banda Aceh

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer, together with the Rector of Syiah Kuala University, Professor Abdi A Wahab, officially opened a Rp 7.4 billion (A\$1.075 million) teacher training facility in Banda Aceh last month.

The teaching laboratory, based at the Syiah Kuala University will train more than 900 teachers every year.

Ambassador Farmer said the tsunami had a terrible impact on education staff and services in Aceh, with 2500 teachers killed and 2000 schools destroyed.

The new training facility will increase the number of qualified teachers in Aceh, and, through better education, improve the lives of thousands of children throughout the Province.

Mr Farmer said the teaching laboratory was a “first of its kind in Aceh”, bringing young teachers together from not just Syiah Kuala University but also from the State Islamic University (IAIN) and Muhammadiyah University.

Australia has made a major contribution to the education sector in Aceh, with over 300 junior secondary school teachers receiving professional development training, and 14 schools under construction. In addition furniture, equipment and classroom teaching materials have been supplied to enable students to return to study. Total Australian assistance to the education sector in Aceh amounts to over Rp 220 billion (A\$33 million).

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Australia partners with Nahdlatul Ulama on disaster preparedness project

Australia, through its overseas aid agency, AusAID, is providing Rp 4.6 billion (A\$700,000) in grant assistance to Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) to teach Islamic boarding school students and teachers how to manage and respond to possible disasters.

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer signed the agreement with the General Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama, Hasyim Muzadi last month.

The funding will support a program in NU boarding schools to enhance disaster awareness and preparedness amongst children and teachers. It also aims to strengthen cooperation between community and local authorities on disaster management.

The funding to NU is part of Australia’s Rp 67 billion (A\$10 million) disaster preparedness package for Indonesia. The program will initially target provinces such as Jakarta, Central Java and East Java.

Mr Farmer said that teaching children and their communities about disasters and how they could prepare themselves would assist in reducing the devastating impact of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.

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Minister for Administrative Reform visits Australia

The Minister for Administrative Reform, Taufiq Effendi visited Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra last month to gain an appreciation of the public sector reform challenges facing Australia.

The visit is part of a broader collaboration between AusAID's Government Partnerships Fund and the Australian Public Service Commission to work closely with their Indonesian counterpart agencies to implement civil service reform.

Mr Effendi was accompanied on the visit by Heads of the Ministry of Administrative Reform (Menpan), Mr Edy Topo, Civil Service Agency (BKN), Mr Prpto Hadi, and the National Institute of Public Administration (LAN), Mr Sunarno Sumowijoto.

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Applications open for Fellowships under the Australian Leadership Awards (ALA's)

Leaders and future leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region, including Indonesia, are invited to apply for an ALA Fellowship.

The ALA Fellowships are for short-term study, research and professional attachment programs in Australia. The following industries have been selected as priority areas: economic management, trade policy and trans-national challenges such as pandemics, diseases, security and clean energy.

Successful applicants are linked with Australian host organisations from a wide range of fields including academia, research organisations, business, industry, NGO's and media.

Fellowships are available for programs delivered in Australia by selected Australian organisations.

For more information visit: www.australianscholarships.gov.au or contact priya.powell@ausaid.gov.au

WEBSITE LINKS

General

www.indo.ausaid.gov.au

Australian Embassy

www.indonesia.embassy.gov.au

Health

www.harap.com.au

Education and Training

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

Economic and Civil Governance

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

Security and Stability

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

Humanitarian Assistance

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

Eastern Indonesia

www.indo.usaid.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.usaid.gov.au/projects/lapis.html>

Note that this September 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 September 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.