



## **The Centre for Democratic Institutions**

### **Indonesian DPR study tour on the Australian Federal System**

CDI invited six senior parliamentary staff from the Indonesian Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (DPR) to visit Australia from 8-17 October, 2003. A study tour was conducted at Parliament House and a program was developed by the Australian Parliament in association with CDI. This program aimed to provide the DPR with examples of options to improve the functioning of the institution. The focus was on the role and functions of the five departments within Parliament House, in particular the administrative support and services available to parliamentarians.

#### **Background**

This study tour forms part of CDI's Indonesia-Australia Parliamentary Cooperation Program that has been in operation since 1999. The Cooperation Program is designed to assist the DPR in its democratic development. A key component of the program involves the exchange visit between senior officials of the DPR and the Australian Commonwealth Parliament. In May 2002, CDI organised an Australian delegation to visit the DPR. The delegation comprised:

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|---------------------|--|
| ▪ Mr Ian Harris     | Clerk of the House of Representatives                  |
| ▪ Dr June Verrier   | Head, Parliamentary Information and Research Service   |
| ▪ Mr Chris Paterson | Director, International Parliamentary Relations Office |
| ▪ Mr Geoff Clarke   | Education Officer, Parliamentary Education Office      |
| ▪ Mr Pierre Huetter | Past CDI Executive Officer                             |

This visit foreshadowed a return visit by members of the DPR in 2003.

#### **Participants**

Under CDI's program, six DPR senior parliamentary staff visited Canberra from 8-17 October. They were hosted at Parliament House by Mr. Ian Harris. The 2003 delegation comprised:

1. Mrs I. Gusti Ayu Darsini, Assistant to Secretary General
2. Mrs. Nining Indra Shaleh, Chief, Bureau of Leadership
3. Mrs. Winantuningtyastiti Swasanani, Chief, Bureau of Internal Supervision and Planning
4. Mr. Subijanto Sudardjo, Chief, Bureau of Meetings
5. Mr. Tatang Sutharsa, Head Unit, International Organizations Cooperation, Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee
6. Mr. Kadir Johnson Rajagukguk, Head of Researchers

#### **Program Content**

The program for the study tour was broad exposing the delegation to the roles and functions of the five departments within the Australian Parliament: the Department of the House of

Representatives, the Department of the Senate, the Department of Reporting Staff, the Department of the Parliamentary Library and the Joint House Department. Indeed the recent decision to combine the last three departments was an example of the need for continuous reform even in an institution that has functioned continuously for one hundred years. The most relevant and useful to the DPR was the administrative facilities and support services provided to parliamentary staff. The program began with an introductory session delivered by Roland Rich from CDI on concepts and terminology within the Australian political system. The remainder of the program took place at Parliament House facilitated by the Parliamentary Relations Office and Department of the Parliamentary Library.

During the program the delegation met with staff within sections of the five parliamentary departments. The delegation attended sessions with sections such as the Parliamentary Education Office, the Table Office within the House of Representatives, the Programming/Selection Committee, the Petitions and Inquiry Counter and the Legislation and Records Department. The sessions were facilitated by staff such as the Acting Secretary of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Audit, the Acting Director of the Parliamentary Relations Office, the Head and Deputy Head of the Information and Research Services, the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Clerk Assistant to the Committees and the Clerk Assistant to the Department of the Senate. Topics discussed related to the information and research facilities and services available, client relations, publications and seminars, the help desk, votes and procedures, chamber procedures, reporting facilities including the Hansard and broadcasting facilities.

The program also included an observation of question time in the House of Representatives followed by a discussion of what had taken place. The delegation attended a session on the passing of Bills and observed a Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee public hearing on Australia's relations with Indonesia. The delegation also attended a Senate Vital Issues seminar on water reform.

Throughout the program staff members and committee groups within Parliament House hosted a number of lunches, dinners and afternoon teas. This provided an opportunity for the delegation to meet in a less formal context and discuss issues of common interest and concern with Australian parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.

### **DPR response to the Australian Parliamentary system**

In reviewing strategies for improving the effectiveness of the Indonesian parliamentary system, the delegation regarded the Australian Parliamentary system as a useful and informative model on a number of levels.

In particular, the delegation were keen to learn from the Australian Parliamentary Library in terms of its facilities, scope of research and effective and efficient information facilities available to parliamentary staff. In comparison to the Australian Parliament that employs researchers with a high level of experience and qualifications, the DPR tends to recruit young graduates that focus more narrowly on legislative processes. The DPR delegation was interested to learn about the Australian Parliament's reporting system in particular the use of the Hansard. This was useful for the DPR as it seeks to improve its' reporting and record keeping systems.

Sections within some of the departments were not specifically related to the individual delegation members' roles within the DPR. However, these were seen by the delegation as important and interesting because they operated quite differently to the DPR. The delegation was impressed

with services such as the client liaison desk and the public education program, in particular, the program for school children in teaching them about parliament.

There was also discussion about the ancillary services provided by the DPR Secretariat to Indonesian parliamentarians in housing and health services and whether there might be more cost effective ways of achieving the required outcomes.

In 2004, the Indonesian parliament will add to its structure a third chamber- the DPD. The DPR was therefore interested in the roles and functions of the Department of the House of Representatives and the Department of the Senate and in particular the Joint House Department. Here, the Australian model was interesting because both the House of Representatives and the Senate access the one library and research service. In Indonesia each chamber has its own smaller research service.

### **Evaluation of the Australian Parliament/CDI Program**

The delegation found most of program's content on the Australian Parliamentary system was new and they learned an enormous amount. They were positive about the program's structure and the relevance of the information provided. Most of the information sessions were clear and comprehensive, though there were some concepts that were difficult to understand due to differences between the two parliamentary systems. The delegation felt however, that in these situations there was opportunity to ask questions, clarify the issues and receive additional information upon request.

The DPR delegation found the most useful aspects of the program to be the Department of the Parliamentary Library, the Hansard and reporting staff and the Table Office. Those aspects that were not as useful, but nevertheless interesting and informative, were the Parliamentary Education Program and the Client Liaison Services.

### **Future Initiatives**

This study tour, as part of CDI's Indonesia -Australia Parliamentary Cooperation Program, provided the DPR with an overview of the Australian Parliamentary system. It was therefore decided that future initiatives would now focus on strengthening specific aspects of the DPR. The DPR will advise CDI on which aspect the program should concentrate. The next workshop has been tentatively scheduled for 2004.

As well the educational aspect of the tour, the program provided a valuable opportunity for the mutual exchange of information, ideas and experiences between the Australian Parliament and the Indonesian DPR. It is hoped that in the future these relations will continue to develop and strengthen. CDI would like to thank the Australian Parliament for developing a comprehensive and relevant program within Parliament House for the DPR delegation.

## ***PROGRAM***

### **WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER**

- 9.05** Delegation arrive in Canberra on QF 787 and are taken to their accommodation
- 12.30-13.30** Welcome lunch hosted by CDI
- 14.00-17.00** *Briefing and introductory session on the terminology and concepts within the Australian political system*  
CDI Director Roland Rich  
University House, ANU

### **THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER**

- 9.10** Arrive Parliament House  
House of Representatives Entrance  
Met on arrival by Mr Raymond Knight – Parliamentary Relations Office
- 9.15** Meet with Ms Judy Hutchinson, Manager, Client Relations, Publications and Seminars  
Orientation to Home Room
- 9.30** *Introduction to the Australian Parliamentary System*  
Ms Sarah Miskin and Mr Scott Bennett  
Politics Research Specialists,  
Politics and Public Administration Group  
Department of the Parliamentary Library
- 11.00** Morning tea  
Meeting with the senior management of the Department of the Parliamentary Library
- 11.30** Guided Tour of Parliament House
- 12.30-13.30** Lunch
- 14.00-15.30** *Information, analysis and advice for the Parliament.*  
*An introduction to services provided by the Department of the Parliamentary Library*  
Dr June Verrier  
Head, Information and Research Services  
and  
Ms Nola Adcock  
Deputy Head, Information and Research Service

**15.30** Tour of Main Library and Ground Floor Library  
Ms Judy Hutchinson

**16.00** Depart Parliament House

**FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER**

**8.55** Arrive Parliament House

**9.00** *‘The Role and functions of the House of Representatives and the role of the Clerk of the House’*  
Mr Ian Harris,  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

**10.00** Morning tea

**10.30-11.45** Meet with Dr Stephen Sherlock  
Foreign Affairs Advisor  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Group  
Information and Research Services  
and  
Mr Pierre Huetter  
Research Officer  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

**11.45-13.00** Delegation members who wish to pray will be taken by transport to a nearby mosque

**11.45-13.15** Lunch

**13.20** Collect delegates from Home Room (Parliamentary Library) by:  
Mr David Watt  
Executive Assistant to the Secretary  
Department of Parliamentary Reporting Staff

**13.30** Tour of Broadcasting facilities (Basement)  
Mr Vlodek Skiba

**14.00** Hansard  
Mr Ashley Oakes

**14.30** Client Liaison (Help Desk)  
Mr Sean Smith

**15.00** Web Casting  
Mr Kevin Indran

**16.00** Information Session with Parliamentary Relations Office  
Ms Brenda Herd

Acting Director  
Parliamentary Relations Office

**17.00** Depart Parliament House

**SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER**

Free day for sight seeing and shopping in Canberra.

**SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER**

**12.00** Assemble in hotel foyer, delegation will be taken by bus to Ian Harris' residence

**12.30-14.30** Lunch hosted by Mr Ian & Mrs Erika Harris, Clerk of the House of Representatives

**MONDAY 13 OCTOBER**

**9.50** Arrive at Parliament House

**10.00-10.40** Meeting with Ms Robyn Webber  
Clerk Assistant-Committee

**10.45-11.30** Observe Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee: *Australia's relationship with Indonesia. Focus on economic aspects of the relationship*  
Public Hearing

**11.30-12.0** Meeting with Mr James Catchpole  
Acting Secretary Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts & Audit

**12.00-13.30** Lunch hosted by the department of the Senate

**13.30-14.00** Afternoon session with the Department of the Senate  
Mr Cleaver Elliot – Clerk Assistant (Procedures)

**16.10** Depart Parliament House for Indonesian Embassy

**16.15-17.00** Meeting with the Indonesian Embassy  
Hosted by the Charged' Affaires Mrs. Trini Sualang

**TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER**

**9.00** Arrive Parliament House

<b>9.10-10.0</b>	Table Office, House of Representatives Meeting with Ms Robyn McClelland Clerk Assistant Table (House of Representatives)
<b>10.00-10.10</b>	Captioning system – Mr Peter Banson (Programming Assistant)
<b>10.10-10.30</b>	Programming of Business – Mr Peter Mason (Director, Programming/Selection Committee Secretary)
<b>10.30-11.00</b>	Morning tea
<b>11.00-11.20</b>	Chamber Procedures – Ms Trish Bicket (Procedures Manager)
<b>11.20-11.40</b>	Notice Paper/Questions on Notice – Mr James Rees (Notice Paper/Questions on Notice Manager)
<b>11.40-12.00</b>	Votes and Proceedings – Ms Lynne Eveston (Votes Manager)
<b>12.00-12.30</b>	Bills – Ms Joanne Towner (Director, Legislation & Records), Mr Jason Sherd (Assistant Director, Legislation & Records/Publications Committee Secretary), Ms Elecia Purcell (Bills Manager)
<b>12.30-12.45</b>	Petitions and Inquiry Counter – Ms Vicki Bradley (Petitions Manager)
<b>12.45-13.45</b>	Lunch
<b>14.00-15.30</b>	Observe Question Time in the House of Representatives Chamber
<b>15.30-16.30</b>	Debrief of Question Time with Mr Peter Stephens
<b>16.40</b>	Depart Parliament House
<b>18.45</b>	Delegation taken by bus to Carousel Restaurant, Red Hill lookout
<b>19.00-21.30</b>	Dinner at the Carousel Restaurant

### **WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER**

<b>9.30</b>	Delegation taken by bus to Parliament House
<b>9.45</b>	Department of the Senate Meeting in the marble foyer with Ali Garnett, Parliamentary Education Officer
<b>10.00-11.00</b>	Attend an education program with Ali Garnett in

- 11.00-11.20** Morning tea at “Aussies”
- 11.30-12.10** Presentation of a variety of other education resources produced by the Parliamentary Education Office
- 12.15-14.00** Attend a Vital Issues Seminar (light lunch included)  
Topic: *Water Reform: The Council of Australian Government’s (CoAG’s) National Water Initiative: can theory be made to work?*
- 14.00** Meeting with Dr Stan Bach  
Senior Governance Consultant for NDI
- 14.30** Information Session with the Joint House Department  
Ms Maggie Barnes – Director, Facilities Management  
Mr George Maureira – Engineering Services
- 16.45** Depart Parliament House
- 17.45** Delegation taken by bus to Commonwealth Club, Barton
- 18.00-20.00** Attend dinner hosted by Mr Ian Harris, Clerk of the House of Representatives

**THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER**

- 8.45** Delegation taken by bus to University House, ANU
- 9.00-12.30** Summary workshop on the delegation’s parliamentary program  
Close of program  
Hosted by CDI with Chris Paterson and Judy Hutchison  
University House, ANU
- 12.30-13.30** Lunch
- 14.00-17.00** Visit to Old Parliament House

**FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER**

- 8.30** Delegation taken by bus to the Canberra airport  
For flight to Jakarta.