



Centre for Democratic Institutions

**POLICY AND ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR INDONESIAN NON-
GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS**

Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney

14-30 March 1999

Background

Civil society has a key role to play in strengthening democratic institutions. Non-government organisations (NGOs) have a range important functions that promote good governance, including lobbying government, advocating on behalf of their members, monitoring the performance of government, and publicising issues of concern. If NGOs are to play these various roles effectively they must be highly professional with well developed policy analysis and advocacy skills.

In March 1999, the Centre for Democratic Institutions undertook our first project specifically targeting civil society. The broad objective of the course was to strengthen the advocacy and policy development skills of Indonesian NGO leaders. The course not only offered the Indonesian participants the opportunity to strengthen their own skills, but also to share their experience and knowledge with Australian NGOs.

The project was managed by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), Australia's peak body of non-government agencies working in the overseas development assistance sector and took place from March 14 - 30, 1999. The participants came from numerous Indonesian NGOs from across the archipelago, working on a variety of issues ranging from mining to leprosy. There was equal representation of men and women.

The Training Course

The course was structured in three stages:

Stage One consisted of a semi-formal training course in Canberra, facilitated by Mike Crooke. The course began with official welcomes from Roland Rich, Director for the Centre for Democratic Institutions; Jim Redden, Policy Director, ACFOA; and Matilda House, representing the local indigenous Ngunnawal people. Several people from Canberra and interstate were invited to make presentations throughout the week. All presentations and discussions were delivered in Indonesian and English so as not to privilege either language.

As the programme indicates, a range of issues were covered during the week. Highlights included a presentation from Pat Walsh (ACFOA) on the evolution of policy and advocacy work among NGOs during the past three decades. George Aditjondro, a lecturer from the University of Newcastle, discussed the current policy environment in Indonesia. Mid-way through the week the participants visited Parliament House and attended a presentation by Margaret Swieringa on how the parliamentary committees systems operate. They were also given a special tour of Parliament House, which was considered a particular highlight. There was a general feeling of amazement that there were not several thousand visible armed security guards throughout the building. The tour took the group past the Prime Minister's Office and even there only two security guards were present! Blair Exel from the NGO section at AusAID discussed the issues of engagement and funding between Australian NGOs and the Australian Government. Patrick Walters, head of The Australian, Canberra Bureau, drew on his experience in Indonesia and examined ways in which NGOs could use the media more effectively. The final day focussed on networking at a national and international level, looking at some of the broader issues arising out of North/South NGO relationships and the changing face of 'partnership'.

Overall, it was a successful week, which included several lively discussions about the present situation in Indonesia. Participants provided their own analyses of the current situation in Indonesia, including their opinions on the present political situation and the June election.

Stage Two took place in the second week of the programme and involved placements with Australian NGOs. This allowed the participants to understand the ways in which Australian NGOs operate, and to share and compare experience and knowledge with their Australian counterparts.

Nine Australian agencies were involved in this part of the programme:

- The Overseas Service Bureau
- World Vision Australia
- Australian Federation for Aids Australia/HIDNA
- Amnesty International
- Australian Indonesian Legal Development Foundation
- NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Mineral Policy Institute
- Environment Defenders Office
- The NSW Aids Council

This aspect of the course was extremely successful. All agencies took their responsibilities to their guests very seriously and organised interesting and relevant exposure programmes for each participant. Participant feedback on this aspect of the course was particularly positive.

Stage Three provided time for evaluation and reflection. Participants returned to Canberra on Sunday 28th March and participated in debriefing sessions, focussing on their agency placements, and an evaluation of the training course as a whole. The participants returned to Indonesia on Tuesday 30th March.

Participant Feedback

The overall evaluation results and comments were very positive. The participants found the course as a whole valuable, as did the host agencies involved in Stage 2. Participants expressed that view that they hoped similar courses would be run in the future to give more NGO leaders from Indonesia the opportunity to participate. They made several suggestions to improve future courses.

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Participants

Binny Buchori: [F] Director, INFID. INFID is a co-ordinating body for human rights and development non-government organisations in Indonesia. INFID also plays a co-ordinating role with international NGOs. It undertakes advocacy to the Government of Indonesia, multilaterals - especially the World Bank - and Donors. INFID also undertakes policy development.

S. Masiun: [M] Director, LBBT - West Kalimantan. LBBT deals with indigenous people's rights and focuses on community organising and policy research on indigenous people's issues.

Asmin Amin: [M] Coordinator, FIK-LSM and Chief Executive Officer, South Sulawesi NGO Forum. These agencies work on issues relating to civil society, forest and land advocacy, human rights, gender, child protection, and HIV/Aids. They undertake advocacy on behalf sex workers and street kids.

Chalid Muhammad: [M], Coordinator, The Indonesia Mining Network. The Network works on issues relating to mining, environmental and social rights, advocacy on traditional land rights and the rights of small-scale miners. The Network undertakes incidental policy work.

Ign. Suharyono: [M] Program Officer, Children's Christian Fund (CCF) - Indonesia. CCF is a development agency working with children and their families. It has 29 staff members in the Indonesia office, and works through 58 local organisations in Sumalera, Lampung Jakarta, West Java, Central Java, East Nusa Tenggara and East Timor.

Ibu Mardiyah: [F] Administrative Manager, Bina Desa. Bina Desa is one of the largest Indonesian NGO and works on people's economic development, rural advocacy, land reform and other people's economic issues.

Robert Mandosir: [M] Director, Yayasan Lingkungan Hidup Irian Jaya - YALI (The Irian Jaya Environment Foundation). YALI is an environmental organisation

whose main area of focus is the Mamberamo River and the local indigenous tribes living along its banks. YALI undertakes organisational capacity building in the economic development sector, as well as advocacy work related to the environment in the area.

Sulaiman Sembering: [M] Head of the Case Advocacy Division, Indonesian Centre for Environmental Law. This organisation undertakes environmental law advocacy, public interest litigation, and policy analysis.

Eddy Sianipar: [M] Operation Manager, World Vision Australia – Indonesia. The organisational focus is on children and small-scale integrated community development activities.

Alexander Mutak: [M] Office Manager and Representative to Government, The Leprosy Mission Australia-Indonesia. This organisation works with the Indonesian Department of Health to eradicate leprosy. It also works to remove the public stigma against leprosy sufferers, with or without deformities.

Lery Mboeik: [F] Director, Pusat Informasi Advokasi Rakyat (People's Advocacy Information Centre). This organisation is based in Kupang, West Timor and works on indigenous people's rights, land rights, and environmental issues. PIAR is currently undertaking an impact study of legislation which extinguishes traditional land rights.

Suraiyah Kamaruzzman: [F] Executive Director, FLOWER. Based in Aceh, FLOWER is a small but highly regarded agency working on advocacy for widows and human rights victims in the Aceh region.

Apong Herlina: [F] Director, Lembaga Bantuan Hukum (Legal Aid Institute) Jakarta.

Rita Olivia Tambunan: [F] Public Defender, Labour Section, Lembaga Bantuan Hukum (Legal Aid Institute)

Cut Bietty: [F] Staff member, Lembaga Bantuan Hukum (Legal Aid Institute) Medan. As Indonesian's largest and best known legal aid agency, LBH undertakes advocacy in individual cases and plays a strong public education role. LBH is known for its role in law reform and in lobbying for policy change.

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Programme

Monday 15 March	
9.00am	Course Welcome and Introductions
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.00am	Complete Introductions; Check expectations & course objectives; Outline the next two weeks
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	History of Australian NGOs in Policy and Advocacy Work
2.15pm	Relationships with Government and Funding Bodies
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm	Relationships with Government and Funding Bodies (cont.)
4.45pm	Australian Government/NGO Structures – AusAID
6.30pm	Dinner

Tuesday 16 March	
9.00am	Policy Case Study – Presented by ACROD
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.00am	Discussion on the Current Policy Environment in Indonesia
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Policy Analysis, Framing Policy, Writing Up Policy
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm	Policy Analysis, Framing Policy, Writing Up Policy (cont.)
6.30pm	Dinner

Wednesday 17 March	
9.00am	Visit to Parliament House
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.00am	Visit to Parliament House
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Approaches to Lobbying: The Art of Persuasion and Influence
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm	Approaches to Lobbying: The Art of Persuasion and Influence (cont.)
6.30pm	Dinner

Thursday 18 March	
9.00am	Use of the Media in Advocacy and Policy Work
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.00am	Public Campaigns, Public Awareness Raising
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Meeting with Australian Federal Parliamentarian
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm	Negotiation Skills
4.45pm	Working with the Government without Co-option
6.30pm	Dinner

Friday 19 March	
9.00am	The Use and Importance of International Networks – Case Study by Amnesty International
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.00am	Government/NGO Co-operation in Australia – Presentation by AusAID
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Avoiding Personal and Organisational Burnout; Role Play – Meeting with the World Bank in Jakarta
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm	Preparation for the Week Two
6.30pm	Dinner