



Australian Embassy, Jakarta

MEDIA RELEASE

7 February 2009

Youth Exchange Participants Bring Home Memorable Experience

Participants in the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP) were officially farewelled today after a two-month exchange program involving the opportunity to live and work in communities in Sydney and East Java.

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer said the Australian participants were now able to return home with a much better understanding about their Indonesian neighbour – the culture, development and way of life – which they could share with their own families and communities.

“It is really encouraging to see young Australians and Indonesians taking the opportunity to experience each other’s cultures first hand,” Mr Farmer said.

During their time in Lumajang, East Java, the Australian participants were invited to live with host families in two villages, Gesang and Burno where they taught English at schools and helped with community development.

The group also set up an internet site and introduced this to people in the villages as a means to promote their locally-produced commodities, like silver and bananas, to the global market.

Participants also undertook work placements at several companies and institutions in Surabaya and visited schools which had been built with the support of the Australian Government under its program to construct 2000 schools in Indonesia.

A number of schools were also involved in a new partnerships program which links Australian and Indonesian schools through teacher visits and internet learning and communication.

AIYEP is in its 27th year and is a flagship vehicle for engagement and people-to-people ties between Australians and Indonesians.

The annual program is managed by the Australia-Indonesia Institute and the Indonesian Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Media Enquiries:

Jenny Dee, Counsellor (Public Affairs) tel. (021) 2550 5290 mob. 0811 187 3175

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL APOLOGY

National Apology, 13 February 2008

On 13 February 2008, the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, moved a motion of *Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples* in the Australian Parliament, which was unanimously passed and received a standing ovation from the floor of the House of Representatives.

For a full transcript of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology please visit:

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2008/speech_0073.cfm

The Apology was made on behalf of the Commonwealth Government for the policies of past governments which forcibly separated Indigenous children from their families and communities, without attributing guilt to the current generation of Australians.

For more information on the Indigenous children who were separated from their families please visit:

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/bth_report/about/faqs.html

The Apology also sparked intense interest around the world.

First Anniversary of the Apology, 2009

February 13 2009 is the first anniversary of the motion of Apology to Australia's Indigenous. A range of Australian Government and community-led activities have been planned to commemorate the anniversary, including:

- Mail-outs in February to members of the Stolen Generations who attended the Apology, and to all Australian schools, will include reproductions of a calligraphy version of the Apology and a letter from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.
- Small grants to support to reconciliation groups at the local level to commemorate the day will be provided by Reconciliation Australia, a not-for-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government.
- The Australian Government is also working with the Victorian State Government, Stolen Generations Victoria and Reconciliation Victoria for a large event in Federation Square in Melbourne's CBD.

What has been done since the Apology

The Apology was an important step in Australia's reconciliation journey, in bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to foster a shared understanding of Australia's history.

Reconciliation involves justice, recognition and healing. It is about helping all Australians move forward with a better understanding of the past and how the past affects the lives of Indigenous people today.

The Australian Government has held consultations with Indigenous people across the country on the establishment of a National Indigenous Representative Body to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a voice in national affairs.

- The Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Tom Calma, is leading a second round of consultations and will present a report to the Government by July 2009.

Since the Apology the Australian Government has continued to engage with Stolen Generations' members and their families and representatives, for example, convening an Indigenous Healing Forum.

The Government's priority is closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through a new partnership based on respect, cooperation and mutual responsibility:

- The task is to address Indigenous disadvantage in the areas of health, housing, employment and education to ensure that Indigenous Australians enjoy the same life opportunities as other Australians;
- The aim is a lasting reconciliation in a society which values equality, diversity and the contributions of everyone;
- The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has recently committed \$4.6 billion in targeted initiatives for Indigenous Australians to drive reform across early childhood development, health, housing, economic development and remote service delivery;
- Governments are developing implementation plans in consultation with Indigenous people.

More than 80 different Indigenous languages are now being taught in 260 schools throughout Australia to around 16,000 Indigenous and 13,000 non-Indigenous students.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting languages education in Australian schools and learning an indigenous language can enhance a range of social and academic outcomes for all students.

Useful Links:

For fact sheets, quotes about the impact of the Apology to Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australian and all other information about Indigenous Australia please visit:

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/i-cms.isp>

Additionally for information dispelling popular misconceptions about the Apology and the Stolen Generations please visit:

<http://www.reconcile.org.au/getsmart/pages/sorry/sorry--faq.php>

Media release by the Prime Minister for families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in relation to the Apology are available at:

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/release/2008/media_release_0065.cfm

Media Enquiries:

Jenny Dee, Counsellor (Public Affairs) Tel. (021) 2550 5265

mob. 08111873175



Australian Embassy, Jakarta

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 5 February

Special Alumni Awards 2009

In addition to announcing the recipients of this year's Australian Alumni Awards, the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer last night announced the winners of two additional categories.

The Australian Alumni Awards are an initiative of Australian Education International (AEI) at the Australian Embassy in Indonesia and are designed to recognize exceptional talent, achievements and contributions made to Indonesia by Australian alumni living and working in Indonesia today.

The awards for the extra two categories went to alumni who, throughout their lives have made significant contributions to Indonesia and the Indonesian people.

The *Distinguished Alumni Award* went to alumni who have made lifelong career achievements and contributions to Indonesia, as well as maintaining links between Australia and Indonesia. Recipients for 2009 are:

- Mrs. Lubna Algadrie, Lecturer, Institut Teknologi Surabaya
- Dr. I Made Nitis, Emeritus Professor, Universitas Udayana,
- Mr. Abdullah Alamudi, Member Press Council, Jakarta

The *Inspirational Alumni Award* went to outstanding alumni, whose work, in their profession or a voluntary capacity, is an inspiration for others. These individuals have worked tirelessly towards a particular cause driven by their passion for contributing to improving the lives of others. Recipients for 2009 are:

- Dr. Deddy Mulyana, Dean, Faculty of Communication Science, Padjajaran University
- Ms. Khairiah Syahabuddin, Lecturer, Faculty of English, IAIN Aceh
- Ms. Netty Muharni, Head, Cooperation and SMEs Office, Aceh
- Mr. Hadi Cahyadi, Head, Central Jakarta Rotary
- Ms. Fanina Yulianthi, Head, Young Entrepreneur, Buleleng Regency Bali

A full list of finalists is available at: www.indonesia.embassy.gov.au

Media Enquiries:

Jenny Dee (Public Affairs) tel. 0221 2550 5290 mob. 0811 1873175

1min.57sec

Radio Script:

An Australian museum specialist team were recently in Yogyakarta conducting a training program about disaster preparedness with staff from Yogyakarta's museums.

The program which was funded by IN2OZ- CEATIVE AUSTRALIA was held at the famous Sonobudoyo museum with representatives from 32 museums across Yogyakarta.

The curator of the program, JOANNA BARRKMAN from The Australian Government's Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory says because of the cultural significance of the collections in Yogyakarta's museums it is important to build a solid relationship.

“There's a very active museum association here so it seemed a good partnership to develop between Australia and Yogyakarta.”

BARRKMAN says they not only chose Yogyakarta because of its rich cultural history but also because of the city's high risk of natural disaster.

She says that due to a lack of disaster preparedness planning many of the artefacts in Yogyakarta's museums remain vulnerable:

Grab: As we know Yogyakarta is prone to earthquakes but also living in a tropical environment there's other sorts of disasters.

In May 2006 Yogyakarta was struck by a devastating earthquake which caused extensive damage to Ancient artefacts throughout the province.

Sonobudoyo museum was left largely unharmed but other museums such as Yogyakarta's Agricultural museum suffered extreme damage.

Built in 1935 the Sonobudoyo features over 3500 collections from all over Java, Bali and Lombok dating back Over 11 centuries.

Ery Sustindi from the Sonobudoyo museum says the benefits from the training program are important:

“We don't have a disaster management plan. This workshop is very very useful for us so, maybe we can plan for future because Java is very vulnerable to earthquakes.”

Museum conservators Sandra Yee and Kristen Phillips delivered the training program which had 2 stages, each lasting for a week.

Stage 1 involved museum disaster preparedness training and museum staff were shown how to conduct a hazard assessment of their collections and document a counter-disaster plan.

Stage 2 was a training exercise in museum collection management and storage procedures training.

The program significantly contributed to safeguarding Yogyakarta's irreplaceable public heritage collections which Ms PHILLIPS says is very worthwhile.

“The cultural collections in Yogyakarta are absolutely amazing. The breadth, depth and quality of the material that you see here is just phenomenal and certainly well worth looking after and well worth encouraging museums to continue to improve their professionalism to be able to do that.”



Australian Embassy, Jakarta

MEDIA RELEASE

29 January 2009

Australian Socceroos Share Skills with West Java Students

Following Wednesday night's exciting match with Indonesia in the Asia Cup qualifier, players from the Australian Socceroos took time out in Jakarta today to conduct a clinic with children from Madrasah Tsanawiyah Nurul Huda, West Java.

Twenty five junior high school students were invited by the Australian Embassy to take part in the clinic giving them the chance to meet with some elite athletes from the sport they love.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for both the players and the students to learn more about each other's culture through their shared passion for football" Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer said.

"It gives me great joy to see our national team reaching out to connect with the children from Madrasah Tsanawiyah Nurul Huda - a school which was built with support from Australia."

Located in Cikarageman, West Java, the school was built using an Australian grant of more than Rp1.6 billion.

With six classrooms, a science and a computer laboratory, library and sports field, the 110 students from Cikarageman village and surrounds now have easier access to a junior secondary education.

The Madrasah is just one of 2,000 Indonesian junior secondary schools being built or expanded with support from the Australian Government.

The school program aims to give more than 330,000 Indonesian children the opportunity to continue their education beyond primary school.

Media Enquiries:

Jenny Dee (Public Affairs) tel. 0221 2550 5290 mob. 0811 1873175