



Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award

Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists 2018



Participants of the Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists Short Term Award together with Australia Awards in Indonesia team, a Senior Officer from Australian Embassy in Jakarta, the Course Leaders, and the Director and Vice Director of JCLEC at the opening ceremony of the course

Terrorism and violent extremism threaten societies around the world, from Paris and Melbourne to Jakarta. While Indonesia has developed effective systems for investigating and disrupting terrorist attacks, there is scope to improve policies and systems for disengaging and rehabilitating violent extremists and preventing others from becoming radicalised. Existing disengagement and prevention programs face challenges, such as poor coordination among authorities and communities, lack of resources and limited skills and knowledge.

In response to these challenges, Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI) contracted Monash University to deliver the Short Term Award focusing on disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists. The course leaders were Associate Professor Peter Lentini (Director, Global Terrorism Research Centre, Monash University), Noor Huda Ismail (Director, Institute for International Peace Building, Indonesia), and Professor Jacqui True (Director, Gender, Peace and Security Centre, Monash University).

An outstanding team of academics, practitioners, government and civil society representatives with international experience and expertise delivered the program. The team had extensive experience in leading and designing research and training programs across various topics, including countering violent extremist behaviour, psycho-social perspectives of disengagement, gender-based approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism, policy development, and security sector reform.

The Short Term Award was delivered in three parts:

Pre-course workshop: 2-4 October 2018, Semarang, Indonesia

In-Australia course: 29 October – 9 November 2018, Melbourne and Canberra, Australia

Post-course workshop: 12-14 February 2019, Surabaya, Indonesia



The 25 participants (12 women, 13 men) were emerging/existing leaders from a wide range of Indonesian government, civil society and academic institutions and organisations.

Pre-course workshop in Semarang focused on building relationships and establishing a foundation of shared concepts around disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists. Participants also began work on their Award Projects.



During the course in Australia, the group had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Susan Carland (middle), a former Australian Muslim of the Year and one of Australia's leading public intellectuals on Muslim and women's affairs

The two-week course in Australia included classroom sessions in Melbourne, visits to Monash University (Clayton Campus) and the Islamic Museum of Australia. In Canberra, the group visited the Australian National University (ANU) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In addition to the academic presenters, practitioners from Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Indonesian Consulate General, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Multicultural Foundation and Radar Solutions conducted workshops. Participants attended a whole-of-government roundtable in Canberra.



The participants of the course were having a discussion with a former combatant at the post course workshop

Associate Professor Greg Fealy of ANU, a world leading scholar on Indonesian politics, Islam and terrorism, hosted the group in Canberra. Highlights included meeting specialists in Indonesian studies, discussing their projects and conducting the whole meeting in Indonesian, enabling participants to speak with greater confidence and clarity.

The highlight of **the post-course workshop** in Surabaya was the inclusion of former terrorists and extremists, along with Indonesian specialists.

The final course evaluation showed a high level of participant satisfaction with the program. The participants produced innovative and practical projects that have the potential to develop into outstanding contributions to policy and make an impact within a very short time.

The most ambitious Award Project was the Family Resilience Team project, comprising six female and five male awardees who represented various Indonesian Government agencies as well as civil society organisations. The team focused on developing a coherent, multi-agency project and have devoted a great deal of energy into constructing an outstanding collaborative project.

Two awardees have proposed an exceptional project that has the potential to provide an outstanding guide to the various disengagement and de-radicalisation programs in Indonesia. The team brings together the university and civil society sector. Their project is based on an extensive review of existing work in this area and could also be of interest to overseas governments, CSOs and academic stakeholders. Therefore, not only have they already started up a solid collaboration between themselves, they have the potential to branch out further.



Siti Hidayawati

Woman's Rights Protection Policy Analyst in emergency situations and special condition, Ministry of Woman Empowerment and child protection

"By joining the Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists Short Term Award, I gained a lot of knowledge from the expert of terrorism. It helped me to understand the true meaning of terrorist which is far from any religion. It was an incredible experience to be part of Monash University and I'm also so proud to be part of Australia Awards Indonesia."

For further information about the course, please contact:

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