



Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award Tuberculosis Prevention and Elimination (cohorts I – III)



AAI Group 2 at the Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct, Melbourne, with Course Facilitators Dr Philipp du Cros, Prof Steve Graham, Dr Suman Majumdar, Dr Khai Huang, Dr Trisasi Lestari and Stephanie Main. Photo: The Burnet Institute.

Highlights

- Three pre-course workshops in Makassar (Courses 1&2) and Surabaya (Course 3)
- Three two-week courses in Australia at the Menzies School of Health Research and the Burnet Institute
- Visits to The Centenary Institute, the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory (Doherty Institute) and the Royal Darwin Hospital
- Award Project development and presentations
- Networking events attended by global health experts, Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI) Short Term Award malaria groups and AAI alumni
- Three post-course workshops in Yogyakarta (Courses 1&2) and Makassar (Course 3)
- Expert panel discussions and keynotes
- Conference-style poster sessions summarising Award Projects
- Ongoing communication and networking on digital platforms

Overview

Seventy-six Indonesian health professionals including doctors, nurses, community health workers, ministry and local government's health policy makers participated in three Australia Awards Tuberculosis Prevention and Elimination short term awards in 2018.



AAI Group 1 completing the pre-course in Makassar show the "TOSS TB" hand sign.

Using key principles for tuberculosis (TB) elimination, the course was delivered by global TB experts and health professionals from the Menzies School of Health Research (Darwin), the Burnet Institute (Melbourne) and University Gadjah Mada (Yogyakarta).

The course leaders were Associate Professor Anna Ralph, infectious diseases physician at the Menzies School of Health Research, Dr Steven Graham, senior TB advisor and Dr Philipp du Cros, infectious TB specialist at the Burnet Institute.

The course equipped stakeholders and policy makers in Indonesia to control and eliminate TB infection, with a long-term goal to further decrease the national TB prevalence and meet national targets by 2019.

Short Term Award (STA) Program

Beginning with a three-day pre-course workshop in Makassar (Courses 1 and 2) and Surabaya (Course 3), STA cohorts got off to a strong start, dividing into groups and developing concept notes for their Award Projects based on situational, problem and solution analyses of current TB programs in Indonesia. This was accompanied by keynotes from Indonesian Ministry of Health staff and presentations on TB epidemiology and key international and national TB policies from global experts.

Following the pre-course workshops, STA cohorts travelled to Australia for intensive two-week courses conducted in Melbourne and Darwin (STA Group 1) or Melbourne and Sydney (STA Groups 2&3), from 12th– 23rd of March (STA Group 1), 30th April – 11th May (STA Group 2) and 10th– 21st September (STA Group 3).

The course program consisted of a comprehensive overview of TB in Indonesia and the world, focusing on leading issues such as drug-resistant TB treatment, TB/HIV management, paediatric TB diagnosis, TB prevention and 'missing' TB cases/case notifications. The course embedded leading global health frameworks for TB elimination such as the Search, Treat and Prevent strategy and used interactive group work, analysis of cases and scenarios from the region, 'Meet the Expert' panel discussions, site visits, presentations and peer learning to cement key course objectives.



Participants and course facilitators at a Parliamentary Reception Hosted by Northern Territory Minister of Health Natasha Fyles.

Clinical, community health, health systems, research and public health experts delivered the program. They covered a spectrum of key topics to equip course participants with the knowledge and practical skills to design, implement, monitor and evaluate innovative TB projects in Indonesia. Further, throughout the course, participants gained extensive project development and design skills, devoting 1.5 hours a day to comprehensively developing their Award Projects. Concluding the course, participants presented their Award Projects to the group.

Finally, site visits and networking evenings in Australia at Menzies School of Health Research, the Burnet Institute, the Royal Darwin Hospital's Infectious Disease Department, Northern Territory Parliament House, the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory and the Centenary Institute gave the participants personal insights into the everyday workings of a TB reference laboratory, infection control in an Australian hospital and world-class research institutions.



AAI Group 1 participants at the Burnet Institute, Melbourne.

Post Award

Course 1 and 2 participants and facilitators met again in Yogyakarta, after a three-month project implementation period, at the post-course workshop. Group 3 met in Makassar for the third workshop. The workshops focused on reflecting on what the participants had learned during the program, presenting the Award Projects, which included a poster conference on the first day. This allowed STA Groups 1&2 to meet and see what their colleagues had designed and developed, which included innovative health promotion tools, case finding initiatives and a TB guidelines smartphone application. Groups discussed the challenges they had faced and their next steps and learnt about tools for effective health communication, writing policy briefs and academic papers.

Participants appreciated a panel discussion focusing on TB policy, research and elimination tools presented by Dr Yodi Mahendradhata, Dr Pandu Riono, A/Prof Anna Ralph, Dr Philipp du Cros, Dr Rina Triasih and Dr Trisasi Lestari. Likewise, a keynote from Dr Aamir Khan, Executive Director of Interactive Research and Development (IRD) (which is implementing the Search, Treat & Prevent approach in Karachi, Pakistan, arguably one of the most comprehensive TB elimination programs in the world) was an inspiring call to action to conclude the course.



AAI Group 2 at the Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct, Melbourne, with Course Facilitators Dr Philipp du Cros, Prof Steve Graham, Dr Suman Majumdar, Dr Khai Huang, Dr Trisasi Lestari and Stephanie Main. Photo: The Burnet Institute.

For the third post-course program, the newly-appointed head of the National TB Program, Dr Imran Pambudi, joined the panel alongside Bey Sonata from KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and course facilitators for an engaging conversation on case finding in Indonesia. This panel emphasised the huge engagement the courses have had in Indonesia and Australia, and the collaborations they have fostered.

AAI's commitment to fund the three best award projects across three cohorts was welcomed by both participants and the Indonesian Ministry of Health. One of the three best posters went on to win the poster competition held by the Ministry of Health at the TB International Conference in Makassar.

The three AAI STA Tuberculosis Prevention and Elimination courses were a great success, creating enduring networks and relationships amongst Australian and Indonesian health professionals and their institutions, strengthening the mission to end the suffering from TB in Indonesia, the region and the world.



AAI Group 2 at the Burnet Institute's research laboratories.

Linkages

A collaboration has been forged between Dr Rina Triasih (co-facilitator from University Gadjah Mada), Dr Donnie Ahmad (guest speaker from University Gadjah Mada at the post-course program in Yogyakarta), the Centre for Tropical Medicine in Yogyakarta, the Burnet Institute, Menzies School of Health Research, Yogyakarta stakeholders (District Health Offices and NGOs) and Dr Amir Khan from IRD to implement a Zero TB Cities program in Yogyakarta. This has been endorsed by the Yogyakarta mayor, and is a promising TB collaboration between Australian, Indonesian and regional organisations that came together during the course.

Since the combined post-course, Mimika Provincial Health Office in Papua, where A/Prof Anna Ralph is delivery team principal investigator and Dr Trisasi Lestari is the TB



AAI Group 2 participants discussing the Tuberculosis BCG vaccine and new vaccine innovations with Prof Warwick Britton at The Centenary Institute, University of Sydney.

contact screening and management project manager, have been collaborating with a STA project team to implement their “puzzle” health promotion tool in Timika. In addition, a number of AAI participants from other Papuan districts have visited Timika to learn about the TB preventive therapy program being implemented there. This is another example of promising collaboration forged from the networking amongst Indonesian participants, Indonesian health professionals and Australian organisations through the courses.



AAI Group 2 enjoying the Australian sites at Taronga Zoo in Sydney.

Participants' testimonials

“Everything was beyond expectation: to obtain learning materials from Australian TB experts who've had many international publications was one thing that wouldn't have happened to me if I didn't get the STA from AAI. I felt very lucky to have been trained in such excellent facilities. Visiting Melbourne was a very memorable experience - what a beautiful and friendly city. Thank you, AAI and Burnet.”



GASAK Group presenting their Award Project poster to fellow participants and discussing the challenges and next steps.

“Very impressed with the comprehensive program arrangement, great facilitators, punctuality, amazing experts, appreciation for both individuals and group, healthy lifestyle of Australians ... felt like a dream.”



Official completion of the post-course program in Yogyakarta.

“We weren't only learning about TB, but also about teaching-learning processes, how to be respectful of other's opinions, how to show respect, discipline, work ethic, community awareness, government involvement, and the economics of TB.”

“Never once in my life have I experienced an institution concerned so much about my needs as a wheelchair user. I was very thankful that you provided an electric wheelchair and accessible apartment for me. It had a great impact for me as I felt really respected by all of you.”



Award Project Poster Conference at the post-course workshop in Yogyakarta.

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