

Australia Awards Short Course

Trade Policy: Contemporary Issues in International Trade



The participants of Trade Policy: Contemporary Issues in International Trade – a course designed to strengthen the capacity of Indonesian trade policy professionals to respond to the rapidly evolving global trade environment.

The Australia Awards Indonesia Short Course on Trade Policy: Contemporary Issues in International Trade was a flagship professional development initiative designed to strengthen the capacity of Indonesian trade policy professionals to respond to the rapidly evolving global trade environment. Delivered by the Institute for International Trade (IIT) at the University of Adelaide, the course brought together 27 mid- to senior-level participants from a range of Indonesian ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Trade, BAPPENAS, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises, and the National Standardization Agency. The program was structured in three phases: a pre-course workshop in Jakarta, an intensive two-week in-Australia component spanning Adelaide, Canberra, and Sydney, and a post-course workshop back in Jakarta. The curriculum was grounded in the latest research and policy thinking, focusing on digital trade, sustainability, the changing multilateral landscape, regulatory frameworks, and the intersection of trade with gender and social inclusion. The course not only built on technical expertise but also fostered enduring professional networks between Indonesian and Australian stakeholders, supporting Indonesia's ongoing trade policy reform and international engagement.

Course Schedule:

- **Pre-course workshop:**
01 - 03 October 2024
- **In-Australia program:**
28 October - 08 November 2024
- **Post-course workshop:**
25 - 27 February 2025



Site Visits & Guest Speakers

A distinctive feature of the course was its integration of site visits and interactions with leading Australian trade institutions and experts. Participants visited key organisations such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Export Finance Australia, Austrade, Standards Australia, and the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB). These visits provided first-hand insights into Australia's trade policy machinery, regulatory frameworks, and approaches to investment, standards, and export facilitation. The cohort also engaged with the Australia Indonesia Business Council, Australian Services Roundtable, Minerals Council of Australia, and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry gaining perspectives from both government and industry.

Guest speakers included Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Australia's Minister for Trade and Tourism, who reinforced the importance of the Australia–Indonesia trade relationship and participated in a Q&A session with participants—a highlight for many. The academic and practitioner team featured Dr Nathan Gray and Professor Peter Draper as course leaders, supported by subject matter specialists such as Professor Jane Drake-Brockman (services and digital trade), Dr Pru Gordon (agricultural trade and investment policy), and Mr Tim Yeend (former Australian Ambassador to the WTO). These experts led interactive sessions on topics ranging from global value chains and sustainability to digital trade, gender in trade, and regulatory impact analysis, ensuring a rich blend of theory and practice.



Presentation by Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism

Pre-Course Program

The pre-course workshop, held in Jakarta, served as an essential foundation for the program. Over three days, participants were introduced to the course objectives, structure, and expectations. The workshop covered the fundamentals of international trade, the global economic context, and the roles of multilateral, plurilateral, and bilateral agreements such as the WTO, RCEP, and IA-CEPA. Through group discussions and collaborative exercises, participants explored institutional cooperation challenges in trade and began developing their individual or group Award Projects. This preparatory phase allowed for the identification of priority topics and the alignment of

learning goals, ensuring that the subsequent in-Australia component could be tailored to the specific needs and interests of the cohort.

Post-Course Program

The post-course workshop, also held in Jakarta, focused on consolidating learning and supporting the practical application of new knowledge. Participants presented their Award Projects, receiving feedback from course leaders, peers, and invited experts. The workshop facilitated knowledge sharing on lessons learned, implementation strategies, and opportunities for continued collaboration. Roundtable discussions encouraged reflection on the course experience and the identification of pathways for ongoing professional development and policy impact. The post-course phase was instrumental in ensuring that the skills and insights gained during the program translated into tangible outcomes within participants' organisations and the broader Indonesian trade policy community.

Award Projects

A central pillar of the course was the Award Project methodology, which required each participant to design and implement a project addressing a real-world trade policy challenge relevant to their professional context. These projects were developed from the pre-course phase, refined during the in-Australia component through expert input and peer review, and presented at the post-course workshop. The Award Projects span a diverse range of topics, reflecting Indonesia's evolving trade priorities and the course's emphasis on practical impact.



Participants attending a presentation at the University of Adelaide, South Australia.

Standout Award Projects

• The Climate and Trade Nexus: Implications for Indonesia

This project explored the intersection between climate policy and trade, drawing lessons from Australia's innovative climate-trade frameworks. The project increased awareness of the climate-trade nexus within Indonesian government circles and contributed to the integration of climate considerations into ongoing trade policy discussions. It also fostered new networks between Indonesian and Australian policymakers, supporting future collaboration and knowledge exchange.

• Enhancing Trade Facilitation through Digitalisation

This project focused on streamlining Indonesia's trade facilitation processes through digital innovation. By

benchmarking Australian best practices, Deasy piloted a digital documentation system that reduced processing times and enhanced transparency in trade transactions. The project's recommendations have already been adopted within her agency, with broader rollout planned across other ministries. The initiative also facilitated technical workshops with Australian digital trade experts, inspiring similar digitalisation efforts in other government departments.

- **Advancing Agricultural Trade Policy and Market Access**

This project examined Australia's approach to agricultural market access, non-tariff measures, and value chain integration. Their project produced actionable recommendations for improving Indonesia's agricultural export competitiveness, including the adoption of transparent regulatory processes and enhanced bilateral consultation mechanisms. The findings have informed ongoing policy discussions within the Ministry of Agriculture and fostered new linkages with Australian stakeholders in food security and rural development.

These Award Projects exemplify the program's commitment to fostering innovation, practical impact, and cross-border collaboration in trade policy. Participants reported that the mentoring and peer support provided throughout the course were instrumental in developing high-quality, actionable projects, with several initiatives already influencing policy and operational changes within

their home agencies.

'The course provided a comprehensive look into global value chains, climate change, and sustainability in international trade. Understanding how these issues are approached in Australia offered new perspectives and practical insights directly relevant to my work.'

Participant, Trade Policy: Contemporary Issues in International Trade Short Course

'Engaging with experts from DFAT, Austrade, and the Australian Services Roundtable gave me first-hand knowledge of Australia's trade policy strategies. The networking and exchange of ideas with participants from diverse ministries will enhance coordination and communication on trade issues across Indonesia.'

Participant, Trade Policy: Contemporary Issues in International Trade Short Course

'The opportunity to meet Australia's Minister for Trade and Tourism and participate in site visits to key trade institutions was a highlight. These experiences brought the theory to life and inspired me to apply new approaches in my own agency.'

Participant, Trade Policy: Contemporary Issues in International Trade Short Course



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