



Australia Awards

# Australia Awards Short Course

## Principles and practice of effective biosecurity measures for humans and animals



Participants took a tour of the UQ St Lucia campus on Day 1 and paused in front of the University's monumental sandstone building at the Great Court.

The Australia Awards Principles and practice of effective biosecurity measures for humans and animals Short Course was funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), managed by the Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI) and delivered by The University of Queensland (UQ) through the UQ International Development (UQID) unit.

This short course provided capacity building to 25 officials of the Government of Indonesia who develop and influence biosecurity policies and design and implement biosecurity programs. The course focused on effective biosecurity measures. The course covered detection, prevention, mitigation, and response to emerging infectious diseases and outbreaks both in humans and animal populations, including wildlife. The course connected Indonesian and Australian agencies.

The course was co-designed and co-led by Professor Simon Reid from the UQ School of Public Health and Professor Ricardo Soares Magalhaes from the UQ School of Veterinary Science. Supporting the delivery were Ms Lisa Hateley from UQID who served as the Course Coordinator and Ms Ashifa Rahma Wulandari from the UQ School of Medicine who served as the Welfare Officer.

### Course components:

- Pre-Course Workshop delivered in Jakarta (22-24 August 2023)
- In-Australia course delivered in Brisbane (11-19 September 2023), Canberra (20-22 September 2023), Sydney (23-24 September 2023)
- Online Award Project Mentoring sessions delivered online throughout the SC (4 September, 30 October, and 4 December 2023)
- Post-Course Workshop delivered in Bogor (6-7 February 2023)



## Course Provider

UQ is ranked among the world's top 50 universities and is a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) universities. The University has a world-class track record of delivering practical solutions to complex global challenges, collaborating with partner institutions and industry in areas of national and international importance.

UQID builds the capacity of people and organisations around the world to achieve their development goals. Recognised for excellence through technical leadership, training and capacity building, management, and research, the unit is one of the Indo-Pacific's leading university development groups. Since it was Established in 1994, UQID has completed more than 500 projects across 80 countries. The unit has designed and delivered more than 190 tailored short courses for 5000+ participants from across South-West Asia, South-East Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Working with a broad range of Stakeholders, UQID draws upon the knowledge, expertise and skills of university academics, leading practitioners across Australia, and global experts to rapidly develop and effectively deliver training and capacity building programs for a range of Australian and international agencies. Our clients include the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, and United Nations (UN).

## Course Participants

The SC was delivered to a group of 25 highly qualified course participants, who came from diverse professional levels, backgrounds, and experiences. The group was comprised of 17 females and 8 males who hailed from 11 different provinces in Indonesia. They were mid to senior-level professionals, including veterinarians, supervisors, coordinators and health managers.

## Course Highlights

Highlights during the program included:

- Opportunity to collaborate with an exceptional and diverse range of participants chosen through the meticulous selection process;
- Contextualisation and comparison between the Australian and Indonesian systems of government, culture and other aspects consequently affecting the biosecurity measures in both countries;
- Collaboration, knowledge exchange, and networking with participants who were experts in their fields, as well as with various experts from UQ, the Australian government, and not-for-profit organisations;
- Coaching and mentoring sessions provided before and after the in-Australia component, which guided and supported participants through the development, implementation and finalisation of their Award Projects with proficiency and confidence; and
- Participants' final presentation of their high-calibre Award Projects, which impressed the audiences including the delivery and managing teams.

## Award Project Highlights:

As part of the short course, participants developed and implemented Award Projects which applied learnings from the course to implement in their work. Some of the most impactful projects were:

- **Project on Rabies Education and Health Promotion for Children with Auditory and Visual Impairments (Human Biosecurity):** Dhony Nugroho successfully translated rabies prevention materials into Braille, specifically targeting vision-impaired children. This project was catalysed by short-course training on Biosecurity including Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion principles in Biosecurity strategies, and demonstrates a proactive approach to inclusivity in health education. The Braille posters represent an opportunity for further governmental and philanthropic support, ensuring equitable access to vital information for vulnerable communities.



Participants were given a Welcome Ceremony on September 11, 2023, Day 1 of the short course, by the UQ delivery team and representatives from the Queensland Government. The event was held at the Global Change Institute, UQ St Lucia Campus in Brisbane Australia.



Participants visited Agricultural Quarantine of Tanjung Priok (Balai Besar Karantina Pertanian Tanjung Priok), 23 August 2023.

- Rabies School Age Active Learning Project (Human Biosecurity):** Annisa conducted an active learning project aimed at primary school children to raise awareness about rabies prevention. Through engaging activities and a documented video, this initiative effectively addresses the needs of a high-risk population for rabies transmission, fostering a positive impact on children's health.
- Conceptual Framework for Indonesian National Biosecurity System (Animal Biosecurity):** Desniwaty from the Indonesian Quarantine Agency conducted project activities which represent significant progress towards the establishment of a robust national biosecurity system for Indonesia. This includes the proposal for the establishment of an Indonesian National Biosecurity Committee. Through stakeholder engagement, conceptualisation, and draft plan development, a solid foundation has been laid for enhancing the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to biosecurity threats. Moving forward, continued collaboration and commitment will be essential to realising the vision of a safer and more secure Indonesia.
- On-Farm Smallholder Hygiene Initiative (Animal Biosecurity):** Sahrini Rauf successfully garnered support from local livestock owners to enhance on-farm hygiene practices. This grassroots, participatory project resulted in investments in infrastructure and changes in farming practices, with potential for scalability across farmer groups and regions. The project demonstrates the significance of community engagement in improving smallholder animal biosecurity.
- Establishment of a Biosecurity Training Center (Animal Biosecurity):** Ari Wibowo's project achieved the establishment of a formal training centre for livestock biosecurity achieved fruition, exemplifying a mutually beneficial collaboration between diverse group of stakeholders including farmer's groups, academia and local government. The success of the NEBBRA initiative (Nucleus of Excellence for Borneo Biosecurity Actions) for smallholder initiative was demonstrated by successful uptake among local farmers, highlighting the potential for capacity building within the agricultural sector.

*"Biosecurity training in Australia give me much new insight, knowledge, and information about how Australia manages its biosecurity therefore I will use the knowledge and skills for: 1. Transfer the knowledge and skills to my colleagues so their knowledge regarding biosecurity can be increased 2. Convince the top manager of the office to prioritize biosecurity practice, especially on farm biosecurity as the first-choice measure to prevent infectious animal diseases 3. Disseminate the information to the Stakeholders about biosecurity."*

- Anonymous Short Course Participant

*"I met various important people who really contributed to the development of our laboratory, especially ACDP who provided ASF Diagnostic training and AIHSP who provided Assistance with the Gennie Lamp tool and other training that is useful in diagnosing rabies using a screening test, I hope that cooperation and communication will continue with email sustainable way to handle disease control in East Nusa Tenggara."*

- Anonymous Short Course Participant

*"I have learned a lot, starting from the importance of biosecurity and how to apply it, as well as how to address biosecurity issues in various contexts, including in the lab, field, and more. This is crucial for finding solutions to enhance biosecurity in Indonesia. Meeting influential individuals from various levels and backgrounds has provided the opportunity to continuously receive and exchange information in the future, and through this short course on the principles and practices of biosecurity measures for humans and animals, I have gained valuable knowledge and skills that have not only expanded my expertise but have also empowered me to make meaningful contributions to the fields of human and animal health."*

- Anonymous Short Course Participant

**For further info about this program, please contact:**

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