



Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia Short Course

Youth Participation in Social Justice Issues



Course participants and teachers at the Queensland University of Technology on the first day of the Short Course in Australia

Course structure

Pre-Course Workshop: Bogor, 11-13 October 2022

In-Australia Course: Brisbane and Melbourne, 21 November-2 December 2022

Award Project Zoom Mentoring

Workshops: Three half-days

Post-Course: Tangerang, 14-16 February 2023

Testimonials from participants

"This course gave me the attitude, skills, and knowledge to make a more positive impact."

"Besides improving my capacity and skills, this program has broadened my network. The facilitators and AAI have done a fabulous job keeping us engaged meaningfully, safely and merrily."

"I acknowledge the diverse of speakers. They are exceptional! Much valuable information received and networking as well."

"It was engaging and innovative."

"I am forever grateful for the wonderful memories, connections and overall positive energy generated from this course. I hope we can all continue to grow and collaborate in finding alternative efforts to strengthen youth participation in Indonesia!"

"Truly mind blowing."

Building youth participation and leadership in social justice issues

The Course focused on ways to boost young people's motivation, participation and success in progressing social justice agendas. The course brought 25 Indonesian participants together with stakeholders in Australia from government, party politics, law, social enterprise, community service organisations, activism, research, and academia, as well as Indonesian alumni from previous Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI) Courses. The AAI Awardees learnt about social justice policies, theoretical frameworks and practical strategies for improving youth engagement.

Course experience and applied projects for real-world change

Participants learned from site visits, a social changemakers' retreat, presentations, roundtables, simulations, case studies, audits of themselves and their organisations, and reflective activities.

Participants met Australian politicians, government staff engaged in youth policy and programs, youth champions who advise government, and youth wings of Australia's political parties. They engaged with social entrepreneurs whose businesses advance social justice causes and children who design products and apps to help disadvantaged groups and the environment. Practical sessions explored uses of social media, journalism, storytelling, arts, and communications to empower youth and progress social justice agendas. Volunteering and community-service organisations outlined approaches to recruiting, engaging and empowering youth.

Participants discussed the creation and uses of research about youth, such as the Youth Development Indexes, in addition to approaches for conducting research with youth. They considered how gender, religion, ethnic background, dis/ability, economic status, geographic location and other factors can affect both youth inclusion and social justice outcomes. Awardees applied their learning in real-world projects in Indonesia about tools for local governments to meet their targets for youth policies and inclusion, strengthening economic opportunities for marginalised youth, increasing youth participation in politics and community service, and empowering youth to identify, communicate and advance social justice agendas that are important to them.

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"I felt heard and appreciated to be among these young leaders from across Indonesia."



Participants wrote feedback about each other's projects then posted them on a wall to support peers and to suggest ways to improve projects' sustainability and impact

Participants' applied projects to support youth and social justice

"I have gained so much insight into why, how, and what we can do to maximise youth participation. Joining this short course has really helped me establish and turn my vision into action." (Participant testimonial)

Participants designed and conducted projects to improve youth participation and social justice. Some were national projects that will affect government policy implementation across the whole of Indonesia while some focussed locally on specific vulnerable communities.

Several participants worked on tools to guide local governments to assess how to meet their pressing commitments to improve youth services, youth entrepreneurship and youth consultation by 2024.

Many projects strengthened children's educational opportunities by providing motivation and resources to help children to stay in or return to school in regions with high drop-out rates, or by training volunteers to design strategies to repair unsafe school buildings.

Several projects used creativity to help children to generate awareness, solutions and messages about violence and breaches of their rights.

Some gathered youth perspectives to formulate policy on implementing sustainable development goals, while one project aimed to enhance young environmentalists' social media skills to voice their own campaigns on climate change.

A handbook and support network were created to show student activists how to protect themselves with knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities when undertaking their campaigns.

Many projects promoted youth engagement in voting, lobbying and other political participation or built youth voice by teaching skills in using digital media effectively.

Others organised curriculum and training to build young people's role in cultivating harmony, peace and security through changes in attitudes, knowledge and skills. Some projects focused on ways for youth organisations to boost volunteers or improve their operations, finances and management.

Some focused on economic opportunities. One helped orphans to develop job application skills and another boosted young Papuan women's social media skills for marketing their handcraft.

"I learned a lot about various ways of youth participation and engagement in policy processes in Australia. This course enabled me to reflect on working with the youth to engage them in meaningful and empowering ways."

Course participants came from:

National government: Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning/ National Development Planning Agency, Supreme Court, Judicial Commission.

Local government: Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Bulukumba Regency (South Sulawesi), Mandala Urban Village (Papua), Youth and Sport Services Agency, Banda Aceh City (Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam)

International-Indonesian development organisations:

Save the Children Indonesia, UNICEF Indonesia, Plan International Indonesia, ASEAN Youth Organisation, Citizen OS Foundation, Australian Indonesian Justice Partnership 2

Community service organisations:

Habibie Center, Happy Hearts Indonesia, Indonesian Legal Aid Association for Women, Nasyiatul Aisyiyah, Project Child Indonesia, Satupadu Indonesia, Yayasan Muda Berdaya Bersama, Yayasan Mimpi Besar Indonesia

Media: Alliance of Independent Journalists, Suara Kebebasan



Two participants talked at a school in Lombok, where children watched and discussed videos created by youth for a project to highlight youth perspectives and solutions for child marriage, child labour, bullying and other issues that affect children's rights

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Participants met Australians and Indonesians active in arts, politics, government, community service and education at a networking dinner