



Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award

Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists 2019-2020



Participants of the Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists Short Term Award together with Australia Awards Indonesia team, a representative from the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, and the Monash University delivery team

Indonesia has committed to strengthening its efforts to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism. 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 in the first place.

Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI) contracted Monash University to deliver this Short Term Award on the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists. Leading the initiative 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). 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.

This two-week course followed on from the 2018 course and focused on supporting policy development and implementation for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists. The objective was to provide technical knowledge on disengagement for those who draft, analyse and implement policies and programs to effectively disengage and rehabilitate violent extremists and prevent radicalisation. To better facilitate the knowledge exchange, the course involved relevant government agencies, rehabilitation centres and civil society organisations focused on disengagement in Australia and Indonesia.

The Short Term Award was conducted in three components:

5-7 November 2019 (Jakarta)

25 November – 6 December 2019 (Australia)

8 June 2020 (online – COVID-19)

The group comprised of 24 emerging/existing leaders from a wide range of Indonesian government, civil society and academic institutions and organisations. The 2019-20 cohort also included a filmmaker.

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

The two-week course in Australia included sessions at Monash, visits to Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Lowy Institute, Multicultural New South Wales, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian National University and the Preston Mosque.



The participants received first-hand experiences on terrorist rehabilitation in Australia, on-line work on disengaging extremists, women and terrorism in Australia and Australia's terrorist inmates and the psychology of terrorist inmates in Victorian prisons. In addition, they were involved in social networking activities with members of these organisations.

In addition to the visits, practitioners from Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria, the Indonesian Consulate General, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Multicultural Foundation, Northern Community Support Group, and Victoria University delivered sessions and connected with the group.

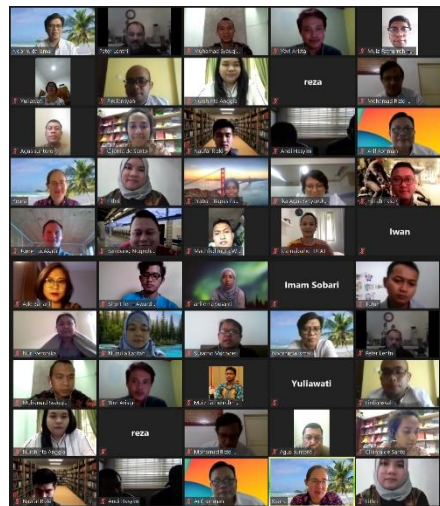


Participants were involved in roundtables at the Australian National University, Multicultural New South Wales, Lowy Institute and Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Additionally, participants attended a whole-of-government roundtable in Canberra.

As part of the course the participants gained a qualification and a certificate in indicators of radicalisation, which was run by the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF). This program is the same curriculum that the AMF provides to Victorian community leaders.



The post-course workshop in Indonesia had to be shortened to a one-day virtual session due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although participants were able to present their Award Projects to their peers and the program staff in this forum, they were unable to experience the planned intensive interaction with former extremists and terrorists who recanted their views, and were working to assist others disengage from violent extremism.



The participants produced innovative and practical Award Projects that have the potential to develop into outstanding contributions to policy and achieve long-term impact.

For further information about the course, please contact:

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