Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award
Sustainable Tourism Development – integrating communities, culture and the environment

Twenty-nine Indonesian tourism practitioners from Gorontalo (1), Jakarta (5), Maluku (1), Maluku Utara (1), Nusa Tenggara Barat (6), Nusa Tenggara Timur (3), Papua (1), Papua Barat (2), Sulawesi Barat (1), Sulawesi Selatan (2), Sulawesi Tenggara (2), Sulawesi Utara (4) undertook an Australia Awards Scholarships – Short Term Award titled “Sustainable Tourism Development; integrating communities, culture and environment.” The course was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and delivered by Griffith University and University of the Sunshine Coast. A wide range of topics around planning, marketing, operations and impacts of tourism were discussed with an emphasis on how these could apply to Eastern Indonesia. A key component was an individual project that was reported back to stakeholders in each province in March 2019; part of the post-course activities in Makassar, Sulawesi.

The Short Term Award was led by Professor Noel Scott from the Griffith Institute for Tourism, Griffith University and Professor Bill Carter from University of the Sunshine Coast. The purpose of this Short Term Award was to nurture the sustainable tourism sector, develop linkages between tourism operators and enhance business planning and tourism management – all with the goal of contributing to economic growth in the selected three provinces.

Awardees at the Great Barrier Reef, Far North Queensland, Australia

Experiencing Indigenous culture at Tjapukai Park
Site visits in Tropical North Queensland included a trip to the Cairns foreshore development and tourist precinct with a representative of Government; visits to Mungalli Creek dairy and cheese factory and the Hou Wang Chinese Temple and Museum to experience community and cultural tourism. There were also visits to the Daintree Rainforest World Heritage Area and a Mossman Gorge rainforest tour with Daintree Discovery Centre. Awardees experienced reef tourism with a visit to Quicksilver, a best practice operator, to see an operational day in the company and learn the company’s approaches to marketing, community engagement, engagement with government, sustainability and environment. At Kuranda, awardees visited the popular Skyrail Rainforest Cableway attraction and enjoyed Tjapukai Park, a unique cultural experience with performance, dance, food, and Aboriginal art. Site visits on the Sunshine Coast included the town of Noosa to inspect foreshore tourism development and the Sunshine Coast hinterland, including Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, a popular small sub-tropical rainforest area with a kiosk and interpretive centre, and the world-famous Australia Zoo. On the Gold Coast, awardees were able to visit Binna Burra Lodge, one of first ecologodes established in Australia in 1930, and participated in a mini-conference on Chinese tourism to Australia.

Networking events were held in Cairns, Port Douglas and the Gold Coast, where awardees had the opportunity to informally meet with a wide range of tourism practitioners including tour operators, wholesalers, planning officers and academics. Throughout the 3-week schedule of activities, networking and linking with industry was a key focus of the program, with 14 site visits undertaken in the 21 days in Far North Queensland and the Gold Coast, as well as informal tourism-related visits in Brisbane and Sydney.

Pre and Post-Course Workshops

The pre-course component took place in Bali. In addition to the course leaders, Professors Scott and Carter, Dr Sulistyо Utomo (former PhD candidate from Department of Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management at Griffith University & Lecturer, Indonesia School of Economics (STIESIA) Surabaya) and Dr Yulia Widyaningsih (Gajah Mada University) spoke on ‘Enhancing Visitors’ Experience Through Content Development’. Nyoman Bagiarta from the Puri Lumbung Cottages spoke on ‘Developing a Product Around Spiritual Tourism’. Agung Suryawan of Udayana University spoke on sustainable tourism in Indonesia.

The post-award workshop took place in Makassar, Sulawesi. Awardees visited Bantimurung National Park and Leang Leang Village in South Sulawesi.

Widyaningsih (Gajah Mada University & Lecturer, Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management) spoke on ‘Enhancing Visitors’ Experience Through Content Development’.

For further information about the course and training approach, please contact:

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This event was held from 4-5 March 2019 at the Four Points Hotel, Makassar. Attendees at the seminar included Australian Consul-General Richard Mathews. The forum examined the prospects for tourism in Eastern Indonesia and drew on the expertise of tourism sector practitioners from the government, private sector, and academics. There were 400 participants, including 41 from Australia at the forum.