Key Elements:

- Pre course workshop 7 – 9 May in Makassar, including site visit to Tolo Wind Farm in Jeneponto
- Two-week course in Australia 6 – 18 August at Griffith University in Brisbane. In-Australia program include site visits to Federal and ACT government, The Pines Elanora – Australia’s largest single roof-top solar PV car park structure, Gullen Solar Farm, Woodlawn Wind Farm, Parliament House in Canberra, some networking sessions, functions and various social activities.
- Post-course Workshop in Bali

The program

Twenty-eight Australia Awards scholars from Indonesian provincial and municipal governments, universities, private companies, NGOs, the State Electricity Company (PLN) and PERTamina participated in the Short Term Award (STA) to improve their knowledge of renewable energy technologies.

Eastern Indonesia has so far missed out on most of the progress made on introducing renewable energy to Indonesia. This STA focused on improving the understanding of renewable energy technologies among Indonesian regional governments, NGOs and private companies, including technologies suitable for their needs and aligned with Indonesian Government plans.

The STA was delivered by Griffith University. Course leader Dr Prasad Kaparaju and his team shared their expertise in biofuels, solar, wind and hydro technologies as well as related policies.
Kick off in Makassar

The STA commenced with a three-day pre-course workshop in Makassar. Participants explored local issues and identified their training needs and selected a local case study for their Award Project.

During the workshop, the Awardees visited Tolo Wind Farm and the Jeneponto Region Head Office, which provided an excellent opportunity for Awardees and the Griffith University team to exchange experiences and understand the challenges and opportunities in developing renewable energy projects in Eastern Indonesia.

Griffith University welcomed Awardees to Brisbane for a two-week long STA in August 2018 with a formal Welcome to Country and an interactive didgeridoo and Indigenous dance performance.

Over the following days, participants were equipped with theoretical knowledge about the current state of renewable energy options in Australia and how these could be adapted to suit the needs of communities in Eastern Indonesia. Participants learned about the intricacies of energy needs analysis, and the role that renewable energy technologies play in this process.

For many Awardees, the site visits were a highlight as they build direct linkages with Australian experts from industry, federal and state governments.

Awardees visited both Stanwell’s Wivenhoe Small Hydro Power Station and A J Bush & Sons Biogas Power Plant, which provided valuable insights to participants on how to develop their Award Projects further.

“The field visits were very interesting. We could see the reality of the utilisation of renewable energy in Australia. This could be a reference point for us when implementing the technology.”

Following the many site visits in Brisbane, Awardees travelled to Canberra to learn more about how federal policy can support the development and implementation of renewable energy.

Amy Philbrook (Client Manager, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)) outlined ARENA’s Renewable Energy Funding Programs, allowing participants to better understand policies and support mechanisms that enable the development of renewable energy projects in Australia.

STA Awardees connected with other industry experts, Australian National University academics as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), represented by Ms Wanda Oram-Miles (Director, Australia Awards Delivery Section, DFAT) and Mr Iwan Freddy (Indonesian Embassy) at a networking event.

“...
The following day, participants visited Infigen Energy’s Capital Wind Farm. Michael Johnson (Site Manager, Capital Renewable Energy Precinct) provided an overview of the substation infrastructure and introduced participants to the details of a turbine blade before the group visited an operating turbine at the Woodlawn Wind Farm.

To round off the Canberra visit, Awardees attended Question Time at Parliament House, which at the time had the National Energy Guarantee on its agenda. Participants witnessed Australian energy policy making first hand.

On weekends, Awardees enjoyed various social activities, including a visit to Outback Spectacular, petting koalas and kangaroos at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and strolling along the 60km-long white sand beaches of the Gold Coast. After a busy two weeks, participants celebrated their successful completion of the STA’s Australia component and returned home to implement their project and share their new knowledge in their home organisations.

Post-Course workshop in Bali
The 3-day post-course workshop in Bali was the culmination of a successful program, confirmed by 90% of participants agreeing that their Award Project improved as a result of the training and 96% of participants confident that their supervisor would support the implementation of their Award Project.

Awardees visited the Bali local Green School, which participants found very valuable.

“The field study in Green School open my mind to learn about living sustainable.”

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