

Indonesia – Australia Specialised Training Program: Phase III

*From October to December 2004, the Castan Centre, in conjunction with Monash International, completed an 11-week course with Indonesian Officials. Associate Director **Dr Julie Debeljak** was team leader of the project and summarises the training programme below.*

The Castan Centre completed an 11 – week course, ‘Human Rights in Australia’, with 19 Indonesian officials under the *Indonesia – Australia Specialised Training Program (Phase III)* from 4 October to 17 December 2004. This was part of an AusAID funded program managed by Hassall & Associates. The officials were predominantly from the Indonesian Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, but also included an official from the Attorney-General’s Office, an official from the Ministry of Immigration, two prison officers, a secondary school teacher, a teacher trainer, a university lecturer, and a participant from an NGO (Habibie Centre).

Themes and topics explored included: the international human rights norms; international human rights institutions and enforcement; current challenges to the international human rights framework; current human rights challenges in Indonesia and Australia; domestic human rights protection in Australia (including institutions and enforcement); and human rights and governmental policy.

A major outcome of the course is the drafting by the participants of Action Plans to be completed upon their return to Indonesia. The Action Plans are intended to translate the knowledge acquired during the course into practical outcomes for the participants in their workplace or in Indonesian society generally, and thereby further the implementation of the promotion and protection of human rights within Indonesia.

Multinational Corporations and Human Rights Website

Readers are advised that a new website has been launched regarding the Castan Centre’s Linkage grant on ‘Multinational Corporations and Human Rights’. They are invited to visit -

<http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/projects/mchr/>

The site was constructed by Rachel Chambers, the (now former) research assistant on the MNC’s project, and was overseen by Professor Sarah Joseph.

Please feel free to contact the Centre regarding any comments you may have regarding this site.

ARC DISCOVERY GRANT

The Castan Centre has won a \$240,000 ARC Discovery Grant on ‘The WTO and Human Rights’ from 2005 – 2007. The Chief Investigators are Professor Sarah Joseph, Professor Jeff Waincymer, and former Director Professor David Kinley.

The Rehabilitation Assistance Facility: Iraq

The Rehabilitation Assistance Facility: Iraq [RAFI] is an AusAid funded programme managed by SAGRIC International. The Castan Centre, in partnership with Monash International, ran human rights courses as part of RAFI.

From 27 September until 12 October 2004, the Castan Centre, in conjunction with Monash International on behalf of SAGRIC International, ran a 14 day human rights course for five members of the Iraqi Ministry for Human Rights.

The training entailed sessions on introductory human rights concepts, international human rights law, as well as human rights issues and case studies in Iraq and Australia. As part of the programme, the trainees travelled to Sydney, where they were hosted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Asia-Pacific Forum for Human Rights Institutions. The trainees also travelled to Canberra, where they received information on the Australian electoral process, and were hosted by the Australian Electoral Commission in the National Tally room on election night, 9 October 2004.



Rehabilitation Assistance Facility: Iraq Participants