Quality assurance of curriculum and assessment reform in Indonesia

CCI’s partnership with Curriculum Centre of Balitbang

Indonesia is a large, diverse country whose peoples spread over many islands. As a result, many distinct cultures, traditions and experiences have evolved in relative isolation over a long time. This diversity of backgrounds produces different perspectives and understanding on the meaning of reform and how it should be implemented.

Indonesia has also experienced economic growth since independence, yet much of the country still remains underdeveloped, with large disparities in regional access to wealth and to development. Many rural and remote communities need extra resources and support from the central government to affect any educational reforms. Without such resources and support, reforms and structural changes at the local level will always be difficult.

Against this background, in 2001-2002 the Curriculum Centre of Balitbang, assisted by CCI Australia, developed and introduced a draft competency-based curriculum to replace the previous curriculum which was largely content-based and teacher-focused.

Initiative

To support this first phase of decentralisation and curriculum and assessment reform, the Government of Indonesia requested the World Bank to provide assistance in capacity building and framework elaboration. The World Bank subsequently agreed to focus its support in two areas:

> a field study to contribute to the design and development of a national policy framework on curriculum and assessment

The field study involved a brief literature review, interviews with key Balitbang staff, and visits to a province and district to meet with relevant regional staff. The field study was able to identify significant barriers to reform, and developed themes and recommendations in a report to the World Bank about how these might be overcome. An outline of the key themes arising from the field study was provided to a joint Australia-Indonesia Workshop on Curriculum and Assessment Reform on 4-5 July 2001 in Jakarta.

The technical consultation for Mathematics and Science involved meeting with national and provincial educators, reviewing the draft competency statements and curriculum materials developed by the Curriculum Centre of Balitbang, identifying implementation issues at school, district, province and national levels, and providing a specifications outline for the design of Mathematics and Science competency-based curriculums.

Key recommendations of the technical consultations included:

> revision and refinement of the curriculums in all Mathematics and Science subjects

> development of documentation to support teachers in the implementation of the new curriculum and reform of their teaching and assessment practice

> an extensive professional development program.

All studies were conducted by CCI Australia in 2001 using internationally recognised Australian curriculum and school reform experts. The project was implemented with funding from the World Bank.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact international@curriculum.edu.au

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