Indonesian curriculum and assessment reform

Partnership, capacity building and learning from best practices

Although there had been a number of educational reforms since Indonesia gained independence in the late 1940s, the education system in 2000 remained highly centralised and dominated by rote-learning and memorisation. There was a need for change as one of Indonesia’s national priorities is to develop a curriculum appropriate for a global and democratic society and an assessment system that supports that goal.

In 2000, the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) sought the assistance of the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) in the lead-up to the reform of the Indonesian curriculum and assessment system.

MoNE identified the need to re-assess the current schooling structure at all levels up to senior high school level to consider whether or not the system should be a uniform one, or one which allowed diversity in its structure and function.

DEST gained funding for the project through a Government Sector Linkages Project (GSLP), designed to support the bilateral relationship between Australia and Indonesia. The project was project managed for DEST by CCI Australia.

Initiative

In the first stage of the GSLP during 2001, a workshop in Indonesia with key Curriculum Centre of Balitbang personnel developed the initial mapping work for a draft national framework for curriculum and assessment.

The second stage included the preparation of a detailed implementation plan for the development of documents and processes addressing curriculum and assessment reform at national and local levels. It was achieved through:

> consulting local and national stakeholders to assess their requirements
> preparing draft recommendations for the implementation of curriculum and assessment reform
> preparing a list of key curriculum and assessment documents to be developed
> developing a strategic implementation plan for the development of processes and documentation to support curriculum reform
> developing the concept for, and writing of, an information package for key stakeholders about the reform process.

The second stage between August 2001 and April 2002 also included the delivery of workshops on curriculum and assessment throughout Indonesia, the administration and analysis of surveys in Indonesian schools, a study tour for Balitbang staff to Australia, and site visits by Australian consultants to Indonesian schools.

This project promoted cooperation between Balitbang, CCI Australia and the Australian Council for Educational Research, as the consultants were sourced from both companies. The project presented an opportunity for Australia to showcase its expertise in the development of curriculum and assessment.

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