
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Report of the Official
Parliamentary Delegation to
Singapore and Indonesia
28 October—8 November
2008**

March 2009
Canberra

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ISBN 978-0-642-79153-5



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Membership of the Delegation

Leader	Harry Jenkins MP	Speaker of the House of Representatives
		Member for Scullin
Deputy Leader	Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP	Member for Mackellar
Members	Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP	Member for Murray
	Ms Sharon Grierson MP	Member for Newcastle
	Mr Shayne Neumann MP	Member for Blair

Delegation Support

Adviser to the Speaker Mr Chris Paterson

Delegation Secretary Ms Vivienne Courto



Objectives

Singapore

- renew links between the Australian and Singaporean parliaments and to explore means by which these can be strengthened;
- gain an appreciation of contemporary political, economic and social issues;
- review the bilateral relationship, including further growth in trade and investment; and
- gain an appreciation of the strategies being adopted by Singapore to deal with the global economic situation.

Indonesia

- renew links with the National Parliament and explore means by which these can be strengthened;
- gain an appreciation of contemporary political, economic and social issues;
- review the bilateral relationship;
- gain an appreciation of the strategies being adopted by Indonesia to deal with the global economic situation; and
- gain an insight into the Australian Government's aid program in Indonesia and visit an AusAID-managed project.



List of abbreviations

A*STAR	Agency for Science, Technology and Research
AANZFTA	ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
AEW&C	Airborne Early Warning and Control
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIBEP	Australia-Indonesia Basic Education Program
AII	Australia-Indonesia Institute
AIP	Australia Indonesia Partnership
AIPRD	Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEM	Asia-Europe Meeting
BMRC	Biomedical Research Council
BOSF	Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation
CAAS	Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore
DPD	Dewan Perwakilan Daerah

DPR	Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat
FPDA	Five Power Defence Arrangements
FTA	free trade agreement
FTE	full-time equivalent
GDP	gross domestic product
GRC	Group Representation Constituency
IAFCP	Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership
IFCI	International Forest Carbon Initiative
IISS	International Institute for Strategic Studies
JCLEC	Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation
JI	Jemaah Islamiyah
KFCCP	Kalimantan Forests and Climate Change Partnership
MAS	Monetary Authority of Singapore
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MinDef	Ministry of Defence
MK	Mahkamah Konstitusi
MOM	Ministry of Manpower
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPA	Maritime Port Authority
MPR	Majelis Permusyawarahan Rakyat
NTUC	National Trades Union Congress
ODA	official development assistance
PAP	People's Action Party

POW	prisoner of war
PUB	Public Utilities Board
REDD	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SAJMC	Singapore-Australia Joint Ministerial Committee
SERC	Science and Engineering Research Council
SFTA	Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement
SMC	Single Member Constituency
SPF	Singapore Police Force
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Introduction

Singapore—Background Information

Geography and Population

- 1.1 The Republic of Singapore is located 137 kilometres north of the Equator at the southern tip of the Malaysian peninsula. Its 683 square kilometre area is made up of the main island, measuring 42 by 23 kilometres, and 63 satellite islands, many of which are uninhabitable. It is separated from Peninsular Malaysia to the north by the narrow Strait of Johor and from Indonesia to the south by the Strait of Singapore.
- 1.2 Singapore is the world's most densely populated nation. Approximately 75 per cent of its 4.8 million people are ethnic Chinese, 14 per cent are Malay, 9 per cent are Indian and 20 per cent are foreign nationals. The national language of Singapore is Malay, with English, Mandarin and Tamil as official languages.

Political Structure

- 1.3 Originally inhabited by Malay fishermen, Singapore was claimed by Sir Stamford Raffles as a British trading post in 1819. By 1832 it had become the centre of colonial government for the Straits Settlement, which included Penang and Malacca. Singapore was made a self-governing British colony in 1959 and in 1963 joined with the Federation of Malaysia and the States of Sabah and Sarawak to form Malaysia. It became independent in 1965 and 30 years later became a republic.
- 1.4 National governance is based on a 94-member unicameral parliament from which the Prime Minister and Cabinet are appointed by a popularly elected President, who is the Head of State. The law is administered by the judiciary, independent of executive government.
- 1.5 Prior to 1991 Singaporean Presidents were appointed by parliament and performed a chiefly ceremonial role. Constitutional amendments passed in that year provide for six-year presidential terms and a range of powers, including the authority to veto government budgets and appointments to public office, the right to examine government actions performed under the Internal Security Act and religious harmony laws, and the power to investigate cases of corruption. The President's powers are moderated by an appointed Council of Presidential Advisors. The President may receive advice and recommendations from the Council and must consult it prior to exercising certain functions.
- 1.6 Eighty-four of Singapore's parliamentarians are elected at general elections held every five years. Each Member of Parliament (MP) represents one of Singapore's 23 electoral divisions, or constituencies. There are two types of constituencies: Single Member Constituencies (SMCs) and Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs). SMCs are represented in parliament by a single member. Under The Parliamentary Elections Act, there must be a minimum of eight SMCs at any time. There are currently nine SMCs with a voter population ranging from 15,888 to 32,586.
- 1.7 GRCs are represented in parliament by a group of MPs, comprising three, four, five or six individuals; the number being determined by the President. The Parliamentary Elections Act requires that at least one-quarter of the total number of MPs must be representatives of GRCs. The GRC system was established in 1988 to ensure adequate parliamentary representation for racial minorities-at least one of the representatives for each GRC must belong to a minority racial

community; that is, Indian, Malay or other. The President determines the racial group from which each GRC minority candidate can be drawn. There are currently 14 GRCs, represented by a total of 75 MPs. As multi-member constituencies, GRCs are usually geographically larger than SMCs and contain more voters. The smallest GRC has 115,323 electors and the largest 184,804.¹

- 1.8 Ten members of Singapore's parliament are not popularly elected, but are nominated by the Government. Nine represent a particular professional body or interest group (such as sport, academia, youth or business) and one is a Non-Constituency MP. The non-elected parliamentarians do not vote on key legislation, but are able to champion reform and raise issues on behalf of their interest group.
- 1.9 Singapore is a multi-party democracy, but politics is dominated by the People's Action Party (PAP), which has won each of the 11 general elections conducted since 1959. Until November 1992, the PAP was led by its founder Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who also served as Prime Minister until 1990. In the 2006 general election, the Worker's Party, Singapore Democratic Alliance and the Singapore Democratic Party also fielded candidates, winning one, one and zero seats respectively.
- 1.10 Strictly speaking, Singapore has only one level of government, but the administrative functions of national government are performed at the local level through 16 town councils. When Singapore became self-governing in 1959, the colonial City Council and rural board were abolished and their functions subsumed by the new National Government. The *Town Councils Act 1988* reintroduced a local government structure comprised of town councils and management boards that are responsible for the management and maintenance of housing estates within towns.

Current political situation

- 1.11 The current and second popularly-elected President of Singapore is His Excellency Mr Sellapan Rama Nathan, who commenced his second six-year term in office in August 2005. The Prime Minister of Singapore is Mr Lee Hsien Loong, who is supported by 20 Cabinet Ministers. Mr Lee became Prime Minister in 2004 and was re-elected to the post in April 2006.

¹ Elections Department Singapore, www.elections.gov.sg

- 1.12 Singapore's 12th Parliament, elected in April 2006, contains 79 PAP members, 9 appointed 'special interest' members and three opposition members, one of whom is the Government-appointed Non-Constituency MP.

Economic Overview

- 1.13 Singapore has the most developed economy in South-East Asia. Forced by a small population and dependence on external markets to adopt an open and outward-looking economic stance, Singapore owes its history of strong economic performance to government policies that fostered economic growth and encouraged trade and investment.
- 1.14 The Singaporean economy relies heavily on international trade, with merchandise trade valued at three times its gross domestic product (GDP). A large proportion of trade is re-export. Singapore has developed some of the world's best port, airport and road transport facilities to establish itself as a transshipment hub.
- 1.15 The Singaporean Government follows a tripartite trade policy under which it supports multilateral trading systems through the World Trade Organisation (WTO), participates in regional trade groups such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), and enters bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) with individual trading partners such as Australia.
- 1.16 Singapore's major industries are petroleum refining, electronics, oil drilling equipment, rubber products, processed food and beverages, ship repair, financial services and the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. It is currently seeking to reduce its reliance on the manufacture and export of electronics by developing its chemical, petrochemical and biotechnology industries, and by increasing its services sector.

Recent economic trends

- 1.17 The Singaporean Government is seeking to establish Singapore as a regional hub for finance, research and transport services. Measures have included policies to improve the education and training of its citizens through a focus on the 'knowledge economy'. The 2007 and 2008 budgets funded tax incentives to enhance business competitiveness and initiatives to promote research and development programs, and to boost the financial and maritime sectors.

- 1.18 Over the past decade, Singapore has faced a number of economic challenges, including competition from lower-cost producers such as India and China, the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the global economic slowdown of 2001 and the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003. Despite these difficulties, Singapore has enjoyed strong economic growth, achieving a peak of 9 per cent increase in GDP in 2004, 7.3 per cent in 2005, 8.2 per cent in 2006 and 7.7 per cent in 2007.
- 1.19 However, Singapore's economic openness and dependence on trade leaves it vulnerable to any down-turn in global markets. In October 2007, as a result of global financial instability, the Singaporean economy went into recession for the first time since 2001. The estimate of overall economic growth estimates for 2008 was reduced to three per cent and the Government introduced measures to stabilise financial markets and stimulate credit flow.

Trade and Investment

- 1.20 Singapore is Australia's largest trade and investment partner in ASEAN, and our fifth largest trading partner globally. In 2007 Australian merchandise exports to Singapore was our 10th largest export market, with exports valued at A\$4 billion. Imports from Singapore for the same period reached A\$10.5 billion, making it our fourth largest source. Services, including education and tourism, are a significant element of bilateral trade, with exports to Singapore for 2007 valued at A\$3.2 billion and imports at A\$4.7 billion.
- 1.21 Singapore's investment in Australia is significant. At 31 December 2007 it was estimated at A\$32.3 billion. Key investments include:
- the Singtel acquisition of Optus in 2001;
 - Singapore Investment Corporation's acquisition of the Mayne Group's portfolio of private hospitals in 2003; and
 - Singapore Power's purchase of the US TXU Corporation's assets in Victoria and South Australia in 2004.
- Singapore's Temasek has also invested in ABC Learning, while Singapore Investment Corporation has interests in Myer Melbourne and Westfield Parramatta.
- 1.22 There are estimated to be in excess of 1,300 Australian companies operating in Singapore. Australia's investment in Singapore is approximately A\$17 billion. Significant recent developments include

Toll Holdings' acquisition of SembCorp Logistics (A\$1.1 billion) and QANTAS's joint venture project to establish Singapore-based budget airline Jetstar Asia, which commenced operations in December 2004.

Foreign Policy

- 1.23 Singaporean foreign policy is characterised by a commitment to maintaining regional political and economic security. Central to this is Singapore's membership of ASEAN, which it chaired from mid-2007 to mid-2008.
- 1.24 Singapore has a close relationship with its immediate neighbours Malaysia and Indonesia and is an active member of APEC. It also has strong ties with the US, concluding the Singapore - United States Strategic Framework Agreement in July 2005. Bilateral relations between Singapore and Europe are growing through the Singapore-initiated ASEM and Singapore has also instigated the Forum for East Asian and Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC) to build links between Asia and Latin America. In 2005, Singapore hosted the inaugural meeting of the Asia-Middle East Dialogue and it is currently negotiating an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- 1.25 Singapore strongly supports the efforts of the United Nations (UN) to preserve international law and order and in December 2002 completed a two-year term as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.

Indonesia—Background Information

Geography and Population

- 1.26 Indonesia is one of Australia's nearest neighbours, with the southernmost point of Papua province lying approximately 500 kilometres to the north-east of northern Australia. Indonesia is comprised of more than 13,000 islands covering a total area of 1,905 thousand square kilometres. It shares land borders with Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor and maritime borders with ten countries, including Australia, Singapore, the Philippines and India.
- 1.27 Indonesia has a population of approximately 225 million. Jakarta, the national capital, is located on the island of Java. Java is the fifth

largest island in the Indonesian archipelago and home to 130 million people, making it the most populous island in the world.

- 1.28 Indonesia is an ethnically and culturally diverse nation with more than 300 distinct ethnic groups and 737 living languages. Bahasa Indonesia has been adopted as the official language of administration, but many people also speak a regional dialect such as Javanese, Minangkabau, Sundanese, or Balinese.

Political Structure

- 1.29 Indonesia is a unitary state headed by a President and Vice President, who are popularly elected on a joint ticket to serve a five-year term. The President and Vice President lead an executive government comprised of a Cabinet appointed by the President. His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Indonesia's sixth President, was inaugurated on 20 October 2004 as the first to be directly elected by popular vote.²
- 1.30 Indonesia's highest legislative body is the People's Consultative Assembly (Majelis Permusyawarahan Rakyat or MPR). It comprises 678 members and is formed by a joint sitting of the 550-member People's Representative Council (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat or DPR) and the 128-member Regional Representative Council (Dewan Perwakilan Daerah or DPD). The MPR is responsible for amending the constitution, inaugurating the President and, if necessary, removing the President from office. It now meets only once every five years, but may convene in Special Session, as its functions demand. Elections for the national parliament (DPR) and DPD are held every five years by indirect proportional representation.
- 1.31 The functions of the DPR are to review and pass legislation, to consider and pass the national Budget and to scrutinise the activities of the Government. Presidents rely on the support of the DPR to form government and to enact their legislative program.
- 1.32 All DPR members must belong to a political party. Political parties are institutionalised in the DPR through the Caucuses (Fraksi), each of which must be represented on all DPR committees in numbers proportional to its membership within the legislature. At the time of the delegation's visit, there were seven major parties in the DPR, the largest of which, Golkar, held 128 seats, or 23.3 per cent.

² Prior to 2004 the President was appointed by the MPR.

- 1.33 The DPR has 11 standing committees that cover all portfolio areas and are the principle working bodies of the legislature. The DPR may also establish Special Committees to inquire into a particular issue or cross-portfolio bill. The DPR is led by a Chairman and three Deputy Chairs. Its program of business is determined by a Steering Committee of 100 members, which also mirrors the representative strength of the factions (Fraksi) within the DPR.
- 1.34 Under the Indonesian Constitution, the DPR holds the power to make laws, but must discuss each bill with the President. Bills may be initiated by the Government or by the DPR. The origin of the bill determines the nature of the legislative process. The majority of bills are Government Bills drafted by the relevant Ministry. The bill is forwarded to the leadership of the DPR with a covering letter from the President that nominates a Minister to represent the Government in discussions on the bill. The bill is distributed to all DPR members at a Plenary Meeting and is then passed to the Steering Committee, which selects the committee that will take responsibility for the bill. The first stage of consideration takes the form of discussions between the Ministry and the relevant committee. The second reading occurs in a Plenary Meeting of the DPR at which the committee reports on the outcome of the discussions and the bill is formally accepted. The DPR Leadership returns the bill to the President for his/her signature.
- 1.35 DPR Initiative Bills are proposed by a committee and must be signed by at least 10 members. The Leadership distributes the proposal to DPR members at a Plenary Meeting and a second Plenary Meeting determines whether the bill will be accepted as a DPR Initiative Bill. If the bill is accepted, the DPR Leadership chooses a committee to take responsibility for the passage of the bill and writes to the President requesting that a Minister be assigned to participate in discussions. The process then follows that observed for the passage of Government Bills.
- 1.36 Any bill passed by the DPR becomes law after 30 days, with or without presidential endorsement. This means that the President has no official power of veto. In effect, however, the Government can prevent the passage of a bill by failing to respond to requests for Ministerial cooperation or by delaying deliberations.
- 1.37 The DPD comprises 128 members. Unlike their counterparts in the DPR, members of the DPD are not required to belong to a political party. The DPD is not a house of review through which all legislation must pass, in the tradition of the Australian Senate. Its powers are

limited to representing the regions and it functions primarily as an advisory body, relaying regional concerns to the DPR and the Executive. The DPD's legislative role is restricted to submitting to the DPR bills relevant to the regions, participating in discussion of bills affecting the regions and submitting opinions to the DPR on the Budget and bills relating to taxes, education and religion.³

- 1.38 Each of Indonesia's 33 provinces is divided into a number of districts. Each district, or regency, has its own administration headed by a Regent and is roughly equivalent to an Australian shire or municipality. In 2001 and 2004 Indonesia introduced reforms to decentralise the Government, devolving the bulk of responsibility for areas other than defence and foreign affairs to the 450 provincial and district governments.

Current political situation

- 1.39 In 2009 Indonesia will conduct parliamentary and presidential elections. Elections for the DPR and DPD, and provincial and district legislatures, will be held on 9 April. The first round of presidential elections will take place on 8 July, with a second round on 8 September should the initial ballot fail to return a pair of candidates with 50 per cent or more of the vote. There could be as many as half a dozen contenders for the presidency. General elections in April will help determine who can run. To be eligible, a presidential candidate needs the support of a political party, or coalition of parties, that win 20 per cent of DPR seats, or 25 per cent of DPR votes.
- 1.40 The outcome of the election could potentially impact on Australia's relationship with Indonesia. There appears, however, to be sufficient broad political support in Indonesia to maintain the current highly positive state of bilateral relations. The Lombok Treaty, for example, was endorsed by all Fraksi when it was considered by the relevant DPR committee in 2007.⁴

³ Sherlock, Stephen, "The Indonesian Parliament after Two Elections: What has Really Changed?", *CDI Papers on Political Governance 2007/1*, Centre for Democratic Institutions, Canberra, 2007

⁴ Much of the information included in this report was obtained from briefings provided to the delegation by the Department of Foreign Affairs, AusAID, Austrade and the Parliamentary Library.

Economic Overview

- 1.41 Since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, economic growth has been steady in Indonesia, but has consistently fallen below the seven per cent per annum increase in GDP required to absorb new workforce entrants. The number of unemployed in Indonesia is estimated to be 50 million. The achievement of higher growth rates has been hampered by supply, structural and governance constraints, which limit investment potential and job creation. These factors also make Indonesia more vulnerable to international economic turmoil.
- 1.42 Indonesia is classified as a middle-income developing country, but with 110 million (49 per cent) of the population living on US\$2 per day or less, poverty reduction remains one of its greatest challenges. According to Indonesian Government data for 2007, some 17 per cent of the population live below the national poverty line. There are significant disparities in development between provinces and districts, and between urban and rural areas, with the result that some areas meet the definition of a low-income developing country.
- 1.43 The transfer of responsibility for governance and service delivery from the national to the provincial and district governments was not matched by the resources and training necessary to ensure effective implementation. Lack of accountability and corruption also continue to impede development. The provision of infrastructure and expertise to remedy this remains a focus for the Indonesian Government. A National Action Plan for the Eradication of Corruption was launched in 2004.

Current economic trends

- 1.44 The 2008 global financial crisis hit hard in Indonesia. Stock market trading was suspended for several days following a record fall in share prices. The Indonesian Government has responded to the crisis with a number of measures, including guaranteeing bank deposits, and the official economic growth rate for 2008 has been revised downwards to 5.3 per cent. The International Monetary Fund predicts Indonesia's economy will grow at 3.5 per cent in 2009.

Trade

- 1.45 In 2007 Indonesia was Australia's 13th largest trading partner, with two-way merchandise trade totalling A\$8.8 billion. Australia was Indonesia's ninth highest source of imports; principal commodities

being wheat, crude petroleum, live animals, aluminium and sugar. Australia is also Indonesia's eighth highest export recipient, importing crude petroleum, gas pumps, non-monetary gold and timber. Trade in services such as education, travel and transportation was also significant, exceeding a total value of A\$1.6 billion.⁵

- 1.46 Indonesia is Australia's 20th largest investment recipient. Total investment for 2007 was A\$3.4 billion, over half of which was direct investment. Conversely, Indonesia's investment in Australia of A\$409 million is believed to be almost wholly indirect investment.

Development Assistance

- 1.47 Indonesia is the largest beneficiary of Australian development assistance, with official development assistance (ODA) for 2008-09 estimated at A\$462 million. Since June 2008, aid has been delivered primarily through the Australia-Indonesia Partnership (AIP), which encompasses the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development (AIPRD) established in 2005.
- 1.48 The AIPRD was established to provide support for reconstruction and development in the tsunami-affected province of Aceh and in other areas deemed eligible for assistance. It comprised A\$500 million in grants and a further A\$500 million in concessional loans, provided at zero interest for up to 40 years, with no requirement for any repayment for ten years. With post-tsunami infrastructure reconstruction in Aceh nearing completion, the Australian Government is developing a long-term peace and development program comprising A\$50 million for improvements in local governance, service delivery and community participation.
- 1.49 Under the AIP Country Strategy 2008-2013, Australia seeks to work collaboratively with the Indonesian Government and other assistance providers to:
- promote sustainable economic growth and management;
 - develop Indonesia's human resources;
 - enhance democracy, justice and good governance; and
 - ensure peace and security.⁶

⁵ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Indonesia Fact Sheet*, September 2008

⁶ AusAID, *Australia Indonesia Partnership Country Strategy 2008-13*, p. 8

- 1.50 In order to help Indonesia achieve its Millennium Development Goals, the AIP will support programs in maternal and neonatal care; sanitation, water, energy and transport infrastructure; and education. Australia also targets assistance to develop democratic institutions and to improve economic governance and management.
- 1.51 In June 2008 the Australian Prime Minister and Indonesian President jointly announced the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership (IAFCP), which formalises and expands existing cooperative efforts in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through deforestation. The IAFCP is central to Australia's International Forest Carbon Initiative⁷ and incorporates the A\$30 million Kalimantan Forests and Climate Change Partnership (KFCP), initiated in 2007, as well as an additional A\$10 million for other forest and climate change initiatives. In the wake of Bali Climate Change Conference, Australian and Indonesian Leaders also agreed on the joint development of a *Roadmap for Access to International Carbon Markets*, which is aimed to provide developing countries with incentives to minimise the destruction of forests.

Central Kalimantan

- 1.52 Central Kalimantan (Kalimantan Tengah) is one of four Indonesian provinces on the island of Borneo. With an area of 153,800 square kilometres, Central Kalimantan is Indonesia's a third largest province and is about one-and-a-half times the size of Java. Kalimantan Tengah is bordered to the north, west and east by the provinces of West and East Kalimantan and to the south by the Java Sea. The capital is Palangka Raya.
- 1.53 Kalimantan Tengah's ethnically diverse population of 1.9 million is comprised of Banjarese (24%), Javanese (18%), Ngaju (18%), Dayak Sampit (10%), Bakumpai (8%). The Dayak peoples are the indigenous inhabitants of Borneo and are represented in Kalimantan Tengah by three principal groups: the Ngaju, Ot Danum and Dusun Ma'anyan.
- 1.54 The provincial government of Kalimantan Tengah is led by Governor Agustin Teras Narang. The province is further divided into 13 regencies (districts), each of which is headed by a regent. The recent

7 The International Forest Carbon Initiative operates on the assumption that the finance required to encourage developing countries to reduce emissions can only be provided by international carbon markets. The Initiative seeks to demonstrate that forest carbon management can be sufficiently effective and profitable to supply international carbon markets.

decentralization of government means that the provincial and district governments have primary responsibility for managing government funds and programs and delivering government services.

- 1.55 Kalimantan Tengah is rich in natural resources, primarily mineral deposits and forests, however major investment is inhibited by the lack of infrastructure, including transport and reliable power. Nevertheless, economic growth between 2003 and 2007 averaged 5.58 per cent. The basis of the economy remains predominantly agrarian, with agricultural incomes supplemented by logging and leasing of land for palm oil production. Palm oil plantations cover some 600,000 hectares in the east of the province, however 80 per cent of these are owned by large companies rather than individual farmers.
- 1.56 Intensive logging, land-clearing for agricultural purposes and associated fires have had serious environmental consequences for Kalimantan Tengah. Forest cover has been reduced by up to 14 million hectares, large tracts of peatland have been destroyed and habitats for endangered species have been heavily compromised.

Acknowledgements

- 1.57 The success of the delegation's visit to Singapore and Indonesia relied upon the assistance of many people, both in Australia and in the host countries. While a number of these are individually named below, the delegation also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of those who worked 'behind the scenes' to ensure an enlightening and enjoyable visit.

Australia

- 1.58 Prior to departure, the delegation received comprehensive oral and written briefings on matters relevant to its objectives from staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusAID. A written brief was also provided by Austrade. The delegation extends its thanks to the departmental officers involved in its preparations for the visit.
- 1.59 Comprehensive briefing notes on a range of topics were also provided by the Parliamentary Library. The delegation thanks the library research staff for the timeliness and usefulness of the notes produced.

- 1.60 Delegates also extend their appreciation to the Parliamentary Relations Office of the Department of the House of Representatives, which managed the delegation's travel, scheduling and administrative arrangements.

Singapore

- 1.61 The delegation records its sincere thanks to Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore for the courtesy and hospitality extended throughout its visit. Delegates appreciated the time devoted to them by Mr Speaker and by the members of the Singapore-Australia Friendship group, particularly Vice-Chair, Mr Hri Kumar, and Mr Charles Chong. Delegates also welcomed the friendly and professional assistance provided by the staff of the parliament.
- 1.62 The delegation is grateful to the Government of Singapore for providing the opportunity for many valuable, in-depth discussions with Ministers and agency staff. In this context, the delegates express their special thanks to:
- Professor Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Home Affairs and staff of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore Police Force and Maritime Port Authority;
 - Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister of Defence and Ministry staff;
 - Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and staff;
 - Associate Professor Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs and staff of the Ministry for Environment and Water, PUB and NEWater Visitor's Centre;
 - Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Secretary-General, National Trades Union Congress;
 - Mr S Thiagarajan, Director, Institute of Labour Studies and staff of the NTUC;
 - senior staff of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, especially Mr Ong Chong Tee, Mr Edward Robinson and Ms Teng Sue Ying;
 - staff of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), especially Dr Raj Thampuran and Mr Andrew Fun;

- staff of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), especially Mr Foo Sek Min, Mr Ang Cheng Nam and Mr Darren Han; and
 - staff of Sembcorp, especially Mr Tang Kin Fei, Ms April Lee, Mr Chow Kum Chee and Mr Jason Chan.
- 1.63 Delegates are extremely grateful for the assistance provided during their time in Singapore by Mr Doug Chester, High Commissioner of Australia to Singapore, and his staff.

Indonesia

- 1.64 The delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia for the great friendship and consideration demonstrated during its visit. In particular, the delegates thank:
- His Excellency Dr M Hidayat Nur Wahid, Chairman, People's Consultative Assembly;
 - His Excellency H R Agung Laksono, Chairman, House of Representatives;
 - His Excellency Dr Ginandjar Kartasmita, Chairman, Regional Representative Council;
 - His Excellency AM Fatwa, Deputy Chairman, People's Consultative Assembly;
 - the Committee for Inter-parliamentary Cooperation, especially Chairman, Mr Simon Patrice Morin MP; and
 - Mr Harry Inggrianto, Head of Protocol, Mr Eddie Siregar, Protocol Officer, and staff of the People's Consultative Assembly.
- 1.65 The delegation was honoured to be received by senior members of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and expresses its sincere appreciation for the valuable discussions it had with:
- His Excellency Dr H Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia;
 - His Excellency Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia; and
 - His Excellency Dr N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- 1.66 Delegates also received a briefing on the Indonesian Athlete Development Program, administered by the Ministry of Youth and Sport, and toured the Olympics training facilities at the Senayan Sports Complex in the company of Indonesian athletes. Thanks for this very interesting visit go to Mr Achmad Sujipto, Head of the Indonesian Athletic Development Program, the athletes and Australian athletics coach and former Olympian, Mr Robert Ballard.
- 1.67 Soon after its arrival in Jakarta, the delegation was pleased to attend (and in the case of one delegate, participate in,) a soccer match between staff of the Australian Embassy and local newspaper *Rakyat Merdeka*. The delegates thank owner and director of *Rakyat Merdeka*, Mr Margiono, and his staff for a very enjoyable afternoon.
- 1.68 The delegation also wishes to record its appreciation to all those who contributed to its very warm welcome and enlightening visit to the province of Central Kalimantan (Kalimantan Tengah), principally:
- Mr Agustin Teras Nerang, Governor of Kalimantan Tengah and staff;
 - Mr Achmad Diran, Vice-Governor of Kalimantan Tengah;
 - Mr Borock Milton, Chairman of the Provincial Parliament;
 - Mr Riban Satia, Mayor of Palangkaraya and staff;
 - Mr Maryono; Deputy Mayor of Palangkaraya;
 - Mr Dr Duwel Rawing; Regent of Katingan District and staff;
 - Ms Lorna Dowson-Collins, Ms Gaye Thavisin and staff of Kalimantan Tour Destinations; and
 - the Head and people of Kanarakan Dyak Village.
- 1.69 Whilst in Kalimantan Tengah, delegates were deeply impressed by their visits to a number of joint Australian-Indonesian development projects. The delegates commend all those involved in the undertakings and wish them every future success. Particular thanks go to:
- Ibu Nina, Dr Aldrianto Priadjati and staff of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation;
 - Ms Sendy Rosendra and staff of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Sebangau National Park; and
 - the staff and students of Katingan Hilir Primary School.

- 1.70 Throughout their visit to Indonesia, the delegation appreciated the assistance and hospitality provided by His Excellency Mr Bill Farmer AO, Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, and his staff.
- 1.71 Whilst in Kalimantan Tengah, delegates were grateful to receive expert advice on development assistance projects from AusAID officers Mr Robin Taylor and Mr Grahame Applegate.
- 1.72 The delegation also extends its special thanks to Federal Agent Wayne Smith for his expert, but amiable and unobtrusive management of security matters.

Delegation Visit to Singapore

- 2.1 The delegation visited Singapore from Monday 27 October to Saturday 1 November 2008. In order to achieve its objectives, the delegation undertook site visits and held meetings with parliamentary, government and corporate representatives and members of relevant organisations.

Renewing links between the Australian and Singaporean Parliaments

Parliament-to-Parliament

- 2.2 During its visit, the delegation met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, Mr Abdullah Tarmugi MP and with a number of Singaporean MPs in both formal and social contexts. Delegates appreciated the cordiality with which they were received and valued the opportunity to engage in friendly and open discussions with their Singaporean counterparts.
- 2.3 The delegation's visit to the Parliament of Singapore commenced with a tour provided by Senior Assistant Clerk, Mr Satish Rai. The tour of the elegant building concluded in the Chamber with a demonstration

of the Parliament's innovative electronic voting system. This was of great interest to delegation members as a similar system has at times been proposed for the House of Representatives.



Delegates gathered on a balcony at Singapore's Parliament House.

- 2.4 Following the tour, the delegation was received by Speaker Tarmugi. The meeting provided an opportunity for delegates to learn about the practices and procedures of the Singaporean Parliament and to draw comparisons between the operations of the Australian and Singaporean legislatures. Delegates greatly appreciated Speaker Tarmugi's knowledgeable responses to their questions about the parliamentary sitting cycle, the budget process and the conduct of Question Time. Media coverage of parliament and the increasing expectations of constituents were also discussed.
- 2.5 The call on Mr Tarmugi was followed by a meeting with the Singapore – Australia Friendship Group, in which delegates were able to share personal and professional experiences of parliamentary life with their Singaporean peers. In response to questions from delegates, Friendship Group members explained the preselection and electoral processes, procedural opportunities for private Members, the role of parliamentary and Government Party committees and the

nature and funding of support for MPs. While noting many similarities between the Australian and Singaporean systems, delegates were struck by the impact of Singapore's geography on the lives of its MPs. Being a small island state in which the national Government has functions that would be within the bailiwick of Australia's local governments, Singapore's MPs must address a wider range of constituent concerns and hold 'Meet the People' sessions two evenings each week, to which constituents can turn up without an appointment to present their concerns directly to their ward MP. These sessions usually attract between 60 and 90 constituents and can run for up to five hours. Singaporean MPs do not have paid staff or an office in Parliament House and, unless they are a Minister, continue to 'keep their day job'.

- 2.6 The delegation was pleased to be able to continue its discussions with members of the Friendship Group at a lunch hosted by Mr Charles Chong MP and later in the week at a dinner hosted by Speaker Tarmugi. Delegates valued the opportunity to continue their very informative discussions in such enjoyable circumstances and were left in no doubt as to the strength and warmth of relations between the two parliaments.

Meetings with Government

- 2.7 Delegates were able to have meetings with five of Singapore's Ministers: Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs; Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister's Office; Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs; Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Defence and Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence. On each occasion, the delegation was impressed by the frank and informative nature of the discussions.
- 2.8 The meeting with Minister Ibrahim focussed on the subject of environmental sustainability, with particular emphasis on water – a topic of great interest to all delegates. Minister Ibrahim outlined Singapore's water management strategy, which seeks to increase and secure supply while simultaneously reducing demand. He explained that the water management strategy was one element of a comprehensive whole-of-government environmental sustainability plan that also encompasses reduced energy use, transport initiatives, maintenance of green spaces and research and development of

alternative energy sources and water reclamation technologies. Delegates were impressed by Singapore's achievements in environmental management and observed that, as a geographically large and multi-jurisdictional nation, such a unified approach would be more difficult to accomplish in Australia.

- 2.9 Minister Lim met the delegation in his capacity as Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC). Delegates enjoyed a fascinating discussion on the nature of industrial relations in Singapore under the concept of 'tripartism' – a unique and non-confrontational relationship in which employers, workers and government work together to encourage investment, promote economic growth and create jobs. Minister Lim explained that the close relationship between the NTUC and government does not dilute the power of the trade unions, but rather instils a level of confidence that enables the Government to include unions in major decision-making.
- 2.10 The delegation's meeting with Minister Ho included a detailed briefing on the functions of the Ministry of Home Affairs (which includes the Singapore Police Force and the Central Narcotics Bureau) and the Maritime Port Authority (MPA), an agency under the Ministry of Transport. Members welcomed the highly informative presentations and valued Minister Ho's insights into national security issues in Singapore.
- 2.11 Delegation members called on Minister Teo, who had recently visited Australia to attend Wallaby 2008, an annual training exercise for the Singapore Armed Forces conducted at Shoalwater Bay in Queensland. Minister Teo commended the exercise and indicated that he hoped to extend the agreement under which it is carried out when the current agreement expires in 2009. The Minister also expressed appreciation for Australia's friendship, both in ASEAN and bilaterally, noting that they many share strategic views and have the same vision for the development of the Asia-Pacific region. In response to questions from delegation members, the Minister also provided an overview of Singapore's National Service and Defence Reserve schemes.
- 2.12 The delegation also met with Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, with whom they were able to continue their very worthwhile discussions on defence and security cooperation between Singapore and Australia.

Political, Economic and Social Issues

Water Management

- 2.13 As water management is one of Australia's biggest challenges, the delegation was eager to learn how the issue is addressed in Singapore. Delegates were pleased to be able to explore the topic with Minister Ibrahim and with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and Singapore's national water agency, the Public Utilities Board (PUB).
- 2.14 Water supply and security has long been a concern for Singapore. Despite its tropical climate and seasonal heavy rains, Singapore's small area limits its capacity for water catchment and storage. It has therefore been forced to implement innovative strategies and technologies to ensure reliable supply. As a consequence, Singapore has become a world model for water management. The PUB was named Water Agency of the Year at the Global Water Awards in 2006 and in 2007 won the Stockholm Industry Water Award.
- 2.15 In 1961 and 1962, Singapore concluded water import agreements with the Malaysian state of Johor, which allow Singapore to pipe water from Johor at a price of less than one cent per 1,000 gallons. These agreements will become inoperative in 2011 and 2061 respectively.¹
- 2.16 The impending termination of the water import agreements with Malaysia has forced Singapore to think and work hard to secure its future supply. It has achieved this by instigating an Integrated Water Management plan that includes management of supply and demand, management of wastewater and stormwater, investment in research and technology, valuing professional expertise and integrity, providing public education and establishing complementary legislative and regulatory measures. The integrated strategy is administered and implemented by a single body: the PUB. The PUB was created as a conventional utilities entity, delivering potable water, electricity and gas supply. In 2001 the Singapore Government transferred management of sewerage and drainage from the Ministry

¹ Tortajada, Cecilia, "Water Management in Singapore", *Water Resources Development*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2006, pp. 227-228

of the Environment to PUB, placing it in charge of the entire water cycle.²

- 2.17 Under its Integrated Water Management Strategy PUB manages the collection, production, distribution and reclamation of Singapore's water. Its long-term supply strategy is based on the Four National Taps: imported water (until 2061), water from local catchment, desalinated water and NEWater.³
- 2.18 Singapore currently has 14 reservoirs and a number of stormwater collection ponds that serve to mitigate flooding during heavy rains. Minister Ibrahim explained to the delegation that Singapore has three catchment categories: protected, in which no pollution-causing activities are permitted; partly-protected, in which wastewater must be treated before discharge into streams; and unprotected, which can contain run-off from urban and industrial areas. The use of the latter as a water source has been made possible by new dual-membrane filtration technology. Since the 1970s, Singapore has progressively introduced and strictly enforced legislation preventing the release of contaminants into waterways.⁴
- 2.19 The completion of the Marina, Sungei Selatar and Sungei Serangoon reservoirs will increase Singapore's water catchment from half to two-thirds of its total area by 2009. Marina Barrage, a series of nine crest gates across the Marina Channel, was opened during the delegation's visit. Within two years the barrage will transform the Marina Basin into Singapore's fifteenth reservoir, with a catchment of 10,000 hectares, or one-sixth of Singapore's total area.⁵ As a highly urbanised catchment, Marina Reservoir is a first for Singapore and something of a global rarity. Its success will rely upon the use of advanced filtration technology to maintain the quality of its urban run-off.
- 2.20 Singapore's first desalination plant, the SingSpring Desalination Plant at Tuas in the island's west commenced operation in September 2005. The plant uses reverse osmosis to remove salt and can produce

² Tortajada, Cecilia, "Water Management in Singapore", *Water Resources Development*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2006, pp. 228-229

³ PUB, *PUB: Water Agency of the Year, Global Water Awards 2006*, information booklet

⁴ Tortajada, Cecilia, "Water Management in Singapore", *Water Resources Development*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2006, p. 229

⁵ PUB, *Marina Barrage: Reservoir in the City*, publicity brochure

136,000 cubic metres of water per day. The Tuas plant was the first infrastructure project to be delivered by PUB under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The success of the project was such that the '3P (People, Public and Private)' approach has subsequently been adopted by PUB as part of "a new shift in Singapore's water management".⁶

- 2.21 The construction price of the Tuas facility was S\$200 million, while the cost of desalinated water during its first year of operation was S\$0.78 per cubic metre. Singapore has since discovered water reclamation to be a more cost-effective option and has been concentrating its efforts in this arena.⁷



The newly-opened Marina Barrage and Marina Reservoir

- 2.22 Singapore began experimenting with wastewater recycling in the early 1970s, but available technology could not provide a sufficiently

⁶ PUB, *Marina Barrage: Reservoir in the City*, publicity brochure

⁷ Tortajada, Cecilia, "Water Management in Singapore", *Water Resources Development*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2006, p. 230

reliable and cost-effective water resource solution. In the late 1990s PUB and the Ministry of the Environment began to re-examine water reclamation. A prototype plant was established at Bedok to purify wastewater using a three-stage process comprising microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection. The Bedok facility was found to produce water that met international water standards and was, in fact, more pure than the existing potable water supply.

- 2.23 On the strength of two years of rigorous quality testing evidence, PUB commenced a large-scale wastewater treatment and reuse program, with the first two recycling plants opening at Bedok and Kranji in January 2002. In August 2002 the Prime Minister and Cabinet showed their support for recycled water (dubbed NEWater) by drinking a NEWater Toast at Singapore's National Day celebrations.
- 2.24 Singapore has four NEWater plants, which supply 15 per cent of Singapore's water. The fifth and largest plant will commence operation at Changi in 2010, by which time it is expected that NEWater will fulfil 30 per cent of the nation's water needs. At present, NEWater is used primarily to replace potable water in non-potable applications such as industry and air-conditioning towers.⁸ Minister Ibrahim stated that only a very small amount of NEWater is blended with raw water in reservoirs for treatment and eventual domestic use as there is no present requirement to augment the existing supply. This represents approximately one per cent of Singapore's daily domestic water consumption. It is anticipated, however, that the figure will increase to 2.5 per cent by 2011. Minister Ibrahim acknowledged that convincing the public to accept NEWater is a challenge, despite its proven purity. During their visit to the NEWater Visitor Centre, delegates were provided with bottled NEWater.
- 2.25 The construction and maintenance of Singapore's 'national taps' has required an enormous investment in infrastructure. In addition to reclamation (sewage treatment), desalination and recycling plants, Singapore is 100 per cent seweraged (with completely separate sewerage and stormwater drainage), 100 per cent of Singaporeans have access to reticulated water and the entire supply system is 100 per cent metered.⁹ Singapore has recently completed construction of an

⁸ PUB, *NEWater: For Industry, For Living, For Life*, publicity brochure

⁹ Tortajada, Cecilia, "Water Management in Singapore", *Water Resources Development*, Vol. 22,

extensive Deep Tunnel Sewerage System (DTSS) intended to divert sewage to a single state-of-the-art treatment plant at Changi. The DTSS and compact-design Changi plant will replace Singapore's six existing reclamation plants and 130 pump stations to increase cost efficiencies through collocation and free up valuable land.¹⁰

- 2.26 As part of the Integrated Water Management Strategy, PUB and the Singapore Government work together to reduce demand upon water resources. PUB's total monitoring of water usage operates in tandem with a number of statutory charges stipulated under the Statutory Appliances and Water Charges Regulations to offset treatment and infrastructure costs. These include a consumption-based Water Conservation Tax, a Water Borne Fee with scaled prices for potable water, NEWater and industrial water, and a Sanitary Appliance Fee (SAF) of S\$3 per month for each appliance.¹¹ Minister Ibrahim reported that measures to decrease personal consumption are working well, with current use estimated at 157-158 litres per day. The Government hopes to decrease this figure to 155 litres per person per day.
- 2.27 PUB also seeks to manage demand through its strong educational and publicity programs, which it promotes via distinctive branding, a comprehensive website, a large range of information brochures and booklets, a quarterly 'lifestyle' magazine called *Pure* and through the NEWater Visitor Centre, which was opened in 2003. The delegation visited the centre and was impressed by the engaging and informative nature of the tour presentation and interactive displays.
- 2.28 Consistent with its '3Ps' approach, PUB encourages Singaporeans to become active participants in water conservation, not only by reducing personal consumption, but by enjoying and learning to value Singapore's reservoirs and waterways. Under the Active, Beautiful, Clean (ABC) Waters program, PUB intends to transform Singapore's vast system of rivers, canals and stormwater drains into attractive community spaces, featuring parklands, boardwalks and recreational facilities. Inaugurated in 2006, the program will deliver

No. 2, June 2006, p. 238

¹⁰ PUB, *DTSS: Deep Tunnel Sewerage System*, publicity brochure

¹¹ Tortajada, Cecilia, "Water Management in Singapore", *Water Resources Development*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2006, p. 233

20 projects by 2011.¹² Mr Bernard Koh, General Manager, Industry Development, PUB explained that the ABC Waters program aims to “return nature to the people” by instilling a sense of ownership over their water supply. A practical manifestation of this has been allowing schools and corporations to ‘adopt’ a section of waterway that they then clean and monitor.

- 2.29 Singapore’s space constraints mean that less than 5 per cent of its land area is sequestered as protected catchment, so it relies heavily upon technological innovation to augment and diversify its water supply. This has led to the development in Singapore of a significant water industry, involving more than 50 local and international companies. Consequently, the Singapore Government has identified water and environment technologies as one of three key growth sectors and has established the Environment and Water Industry Development Council to cultivate Singapore as a global hub for water research and development.¹³ The Singapore National Research Foundation launched a S\$500 million program for this purpose in April 2006. In 2008 Singapore hosted the inaugural Singapore International Water Week (SIWW), which is intended to become an annual event. The SIWW aims to foster global expertise in sustainable water management.¹⁴
- 2.30 Minister Ibrahim said that the 2008 SIWW was attended by several Australian State Ministers and that he would welcome a strong Australian delegation at the 2009 event. Delegates were pleased to learn that the PUB would soon be undertaking a joint project with the Queensland Government and that PUB works closely with several Australian researchers on the development of new water technologies.

Trade Unions

- 2.31 The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) is Singapore’s peak labour body. It represents 62 unions, six taxi associations, 12 social enterprises and four related organisations.¹⁵ The delegation was

¹² PUB, *ABC Waters*, publicity brochure

¹³ PUB, *PUB: Water Agency of the Year, Global Water Awards 2006*, information booklet

¹⁴ PUB, *A Drop to a Splash: The Singapore Water Story*, publicity DVD

¹⁵ NTUC, *Working for U: Labour Movement Annual, 2008*, p. 85

fortunate during its visit to meet with NTUC Secretary-General, Minister Lim Swee Say and to receive a comprehensive briefing on the development of trade unionism in Singapore and the role of the NTUC from the Director of the Institute of Labour Studies, Mr S. Thiagarajan.

- 2.32 Mr Thiagarajan explained that in the 1950s and '60s, trade unionism in Singapore was typically confrontational. Unemployment was high and working conditions were poor, resulting in considerable social unrest. The situation reached a crisis point in 1968 when the UK closed its Singapore naval base, which had hitherto accounted for 20 per cent of Singapore's GDP. The Singapore Government decided to create jobs through industrialisation, but with limited natural resources, expertise and capital, recognised that this would require significant international investment. The Government called on unions and employers to work with it to build a more conducive industrial relations (IR) environment, for the sake of Singapore's economic future. The unions agreed to increase cooperation to attract investment in exchange for the Government's promise to prioritise job creation. The success of the strategy was such that by the 1970s, Singapore had begun to import labour to meet the demands of industry.
- 2.33 The accord between unions, government and employers reached in the late 1960s is known as 'tripartism' – an approach to IR based on the principal of 'the greater good'. Each party cooperates to achieve the common goal of increased prosperity for all. Minister Lim described mutual trust as one of the most significant outcomes of the tripartism strategy. The unions are viewed as partners in nation-building. Trade union representatives play an important role in policy-making for major bodies and the NTUC has a voice in Cabinet. Under tripartism, decisions are based on long-term planning rather than popular will. In embracing the productivity movement, unions will agree to cut pensions or wages in times of financial crisis to ensure job and business security. Conversely, a close relationship with government means that many NTUC programs are adopted as national programs.
- 2.34 Irrespective of the emphasis on consensus with employers and government, the NTUC's primary focus remains to advocate and provide support for workers. Mr Thiagarajan told delegates that workers retain the legal right to strike, but that the most recent strike in Singapore was in 1986 – against an American company. Industrial disputes occur, but are addressed under the Industrial Relations Act

through negotiation, conciliation and arbitration. If an issue can not be resolved directly between an employer and the union, either party may refer the matter to the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) for conciliation. Should this measure fail, the disputants may take the case to the Industrial Arbitration Court, which will deliver a final and binding decision.¹⁶ The number of industrial disputes in Singapore is decreasing. In 2005 there were 2,126 IR cases, 958 individual grievances, and 163 matters referred to the MOM. In 2007, these figures were 1,843, 785 and 94 respectively. Over the same period, wages rose by an average of 3.95 per cent, annual bonuses increased to a figure equivalent to 3.49 months of full-time wage¹⁷ and retrenchment in the unionised sector fell by 2,943 persons.

- 2.35 The NTUC views collective bargaining as key ingredient in achieving better advocacy for workers. The unionised workforce comprises about 1,000 companies, over 90 per cent of which have collective agreements.
- 2.36 The NTUC seeks to attract and provide for workers of all ages, genders and income levels. Workplace programs aimed at improving conditions for employees include:
- Job Re-creation Programme – to provide a ‘face-lift’ for less appealing jobs while simultaneously training workers to the requirements of an expanded skills content;
 - Re-employment for older workers – to encourage employers to retain employees beyond the current retirement of 62 and to provide training for older workers. From 2012, employers will be required by law to offer ‘re-employment’ (in the same or a different position within the company) to retirement-aged workers;
 - Back-to-Work Women – to encourage women to return to the workforce after having children. The strategy includes offering more flexible hours of employment, improving childcare options and providing briefings for women seeking to re-enter the workforce;

¹⁶ Yacob, Halimah, “Why tripartism works in Singapore”, *Straits Times*, 15 May 2008, p.24

¹⁷ Singapore has no minimum wage policy “because it can become the maximum wage and create rigidity”. Most companies give 13 months’ pay (inclusive of a one-month annual wage supplement) plus a performance bonus. The nett average is 15-16 months’ pay per annum. Mr S. Thiagarajan, pers. comm.

- helping mature professionals, managers, executives and technicians in career transition to find new or better jobs;
 - training and assistance for lower-paid contract and casual workers; and
 - training to help companies increase service standards and profitability.¹⁸
- 2.37 Delegates were interested to learn about the wide range of services and benefits the NTUC provides for members outside the workplace. The NTUC operates its own insurance company, credit union, medical and dental clinics, childcare centres, entertainment complex and holiday venues. Its discount supermarket chain, FairPrice is the largest in Singapore. Through its Care and Share program, the NTUC also raises funds to provide financial assistance to lower-income families, including initiatives to increase the educational opportunities for children of low-income earners, in order to break the poverty cycle. As membership of the NTUC costs only S\$9 per month, social enterprises are subsidised by its business ventures. Social activities include organising youth clubs and youth events, providing a forum for young parents, sponsoring social and recreational activities for seniors and creating and subsidising networks for recreational interest groups among its membership.
- 2.38 Mr Thiagarajan reported that NTUC membership has doubled in the past ten years and that Singapore is one of the few developed economies in which union membership has increased.

Security

- 2.39 Singapore's civil defence and national security is the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), headed by Senior Minister of State, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee. Professor Ho informed delegates that Singapore operates a whole-of-government approach to national security, coordinated by a single Minister across all portfolios.
- 2.40 The MHA's primary civil security and defence body is the Singapore Police Force. A spokesperson for the Ministry explained to the delegation that community policing is exercised through approximately 90 Neighbourhood Police Centres located throughout

¹⁸ NTUC, *Working for U: Labour Movement Annual*, 2008, pp. 69-74

Singapore. Police work with community leaders and volunteers to monitor local crime, with the result that approximately 40 per cent of crime in Singapore is solved with community input. The spokesperson added that this strategy has also been helpful in combating terrorism.

- 2.41 As a global trading hub, Singapore places great emphasis on transport security, particularly maritime security, which is managed by the Maritime Security arm of the MPA. Singapore's port is the busiest in the world. Despite the volume of maritime traffic, Singapore promotes security by providing only two points of entry for foreign crew. An MPA representative reported that efforts to increase the security of its surrounding waters had improved significantly in recent years following the conclusion of a tripartite agreement with Indonesia and Malaysia to increase naval patrols in the Malacca Straits.
- 2.42 Minister Ho informed delegates that Singapore's risk of terrorist attack is assessed as high. Subsequent to the terrorist attacks on the US on 11 September 2001, Singapore instigated measures to strengthen border and transportation security and increased international anti-terrorism cooperation. The principle terrorist threat to Singapore and the region is considered to be Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which has links to Al-Qaeda. The MHA has been successful in preventing planned JI terrorist attacks against Singapore and holds a number of the protagonists in preventive detention, although JI leader Mas Selamat escaped from detention in February 2008 and has not yet been recaptured.
- 2.43 Singapore and Australia hold similar views on regional security and cooperate closely on counter-terrorism. In June 2005 the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Singapore Police Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – the first such agreement entered into by Singapore. The MOU provides for enhanced cooperation on counter-terrorism, law enforcement, joint exercises and increased exchange of information. Counter-terrorism cooperation has also been extended through the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), which involves Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and the UK. The FPDA was created 1971, originally focussed on conventional security threats, but has since been expanded to encompass terrorism and maritime security.

Defence

- 2.44 During its visit, the delegation participated in extensive discussions on defence matters with Ministers Teo and Koo, and received a briefing from Ministry of Defence (MinDef) personnel.
- 2.45 Singapore follows a 'total defence' model based on the position taken by neutral states Switzerland and Sweden. It seeks to maintain regional peace and stability through a twofold defence policy of deterrence and diplomacy.
- 2.46 Deterrence is realized primarily through the largest defence spending per capita of any country in the region. Having spent 4.5-5 per cent of GDP on defence in recent years, MinDef may now spend up to 6 per cent of GDP per annum, totalling approximately \$10 billion in 2008. The result has been a large defence force (72,500 active defence personnel, 93,800 active paramilitaries and 312,500 reserve forces) equipped with state-of-the-art military hardware. Recent hardware purchases include French stealth frigates, F-15SG fighter jets, AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters, Leopard 2A4 tanks, Israeli Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft and Elbit Hermes unmanned aerial vehicles. The Singapore Air Force is considered to be one of the best in the region and is regarded by MinDef as the 'backbone' of its deterrence strategy.
- 2.47 Consistent with the 'total defence' approach, Singapore enforces universal conscription under which all young men are required to perform two years of National Service. Minister Teo explained that the success of this program depends on three factors:
- a clearly-defined purpose that is actively communicated in the media;
 - equity in application, in that no exemptions are given except on proven medical grounds; and
 - equity in deployment ("no cushy jobs for the privileged").
- 2.48 Having completed National Service, all Singaporean men aged between 18 and 40 remain in the reserve forces and are recalled annually for training. MinDef prefers to recall reservists by unit or battalion to maintain the camaraderie and cohesiveness achieved during National Service, although this is not always possible due to the international work commitments of some. The Minister observed that young reservists especially are reluctant to waste time, therefore MinDef attempts to minimise time by intensifying training. It also

seeks to maintain reservists' level of engagement by providing state-of-the-art training facilities and equipment.

- 2.49 MinDef identifies technology as a key feature of its deterrence strategy and is the largest employer of scientists in Singapore. Singapore works cooperatively with Australia's Defence Science and Technology Organisation on a number of projects including interactive electronic simulation training.
- 2.50 Singapore seeks friendly relations internationally and pursues diplomacy through a range of regional and global multilateral and bilateral agreements. In addition to deploying medical personnel to support coalition forces in Afghanistan, the Singapore Airforce has been instrumental in providing emergency relief to the US following Hurricane Katrina and to Thailand following severe flooding.

Scientific Research and Development

- 2.51 Singapore is seeking to expand its 'knowledge economy' and to establish itself as a research and education hub. The Singapore government initially invested heavily in biotechnology and biomedical research and is now diversifying into sustainable energy and energy efficiency, including fuel cells, bio energy, solar photovoltaics and cleaner conventional fuels.
- 2.52 In 2004-05 Singapore expended 2.25 per cent of its GDP on research and development and is aiming to increase this to 3 per cent by 2010. Between 2003 and 2005, Singapore increased the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) professional researchers by 4,112 to a total of 20,071. This figure represents 100 FTE researchers per 10,000 labour force.
- 2.53 The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) was established under the Ministry of Trade and Industry to "foster world-class scientific research and human capital for a vibrant knowledge-based Singapore".¹⁹ A*STAR comprises:
- the Biomedical Research Council (BMRC);
 - the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC);
 - the A*STAR Graduate Academy;

¹⁹ Agency for Science, Technology and Research, *A*STAR: Pursuing knowledge for the prosperity of Singapore*, information brochure, April 2008

- Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd – A*STAR’s commercialisation arm; and
 - a corporate group.
- 2.54 The BMRC includes institutes conducting research into bioinformatics, bioprocessing, the human genome, bioengineering and nanotechnology, medical biology, molecular and cell biology and clinical sciences and is based at a purpose-built site known as Biopolis, which is intended to become a hub for biomedical research and collaboration.
- 2.55 The SERC focuses on physical science and engineering, conducting research in such areas as data storage, chemical and engineering science, High Performance Computing, infocomms, microelectronics and manufacturing technology.
- 2.56 The delegation visited Fusionopolis, the home of the SERC and spoke with A*STAR representatives about scientific research and development in Singapore. A*STAR reported that total Government expenditure on research and development in the last financial year was S\$13.55 billion disbursed as follows:
- National Research Foundation, S\$5 billion;
 - Academic Research Fund (administered by the Ministry of Education), S\$1.05 billion;
 - Economic Development Board (administered by the Ministry of Trade and Industry), S\$2.1 billion; and
 - A*STAR, S\$5.4 billion.
- 2.57 A*STAR currently has more than 70 partnership agreements with research institutions in more than 20 countries and welcomes new collaborations and exchanges. Delegates were pleased to learn that A*STAR collaborates with a number of Australian universities, including the Universities of Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland and New South Wales, and Monash University.

Air Services

- 2.58 Singapore’s air services are administered by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), a statutory board operating under the Ministry of Transport. Unlike Australia’s Civil Aviation Safety Authority, CAAS’s role is not restricted to safety regulation. It performs a range of functions including:

- representing the Singapore Government in the negotiation of air services agreements;
- advising government on civil aviation matters;
- airport management and development;
- regulatory and advisory services relating to the operation of Singapore-registered aircraft and the Singaporean aerospace industry;
- licensing of aircraft and flight personnel; and
- airspace management.

- 2.59 CAAS is also charged with the development of Singapore's air transport industry. CAAS has transformed Changi Airport into an award-winning facility, which boasts a record 20 consecutive years as *Business Traveller* magazine's 'Best Airport' and won nine 'best airport' awards in 2008 alone. In 2007, Changi handled 36.7 million passengers travelling between 60 different countries and 1.89 million tonnes of cargo.
- 2.60 Changi Airport occupies some 1,300 hectares of mostly reclaimed land on Singapore's eastern tip, approximately 20 kilometres from the central business district. Changi's first terminal was officially opened on 29 December 1981 and has since undergone considerable extension and upgrading. A second terminal was constructed in 1990 and the new state-of-the-art Terminal 3 commenced operations in January 2008. Delegates visited Changi Airport to meet with CAAS representatives and were given a tour of the impressive new terminal, which features energy efficient design and a living 'green wall' of climbing plants.
- 2.61 Consistent with Singapore's vision to be the region's leading logistics hub, air cargo services are an important focus for CAAS and Changi Airport. The 47 hectare Changi Airfreight Centre is a designated free trade zone situated at the northern end of the airport site. Its round-the-clock services include movement, storage and repacking of cargo, one-hour turnaround for urgent deliveries and an express sea port connection to facilitate sea-air transshipment, making it a comprehensive service-provider for industry. In order to enhance Singapore's logistics competitiveness, a S\$35 million Airport Logistics Park commenced operation in 2003 on a 26 hectare site adjacent to Changi Airport. As the park lies within the free trade zone, it delivers

time and cost efficiencies for transshipment clients by circumventing the paperwork associated with duties, taxes and customs formalities.

Global Financial Crisis

- 2.62 The delegation's visit to Singapore took place soon after the emergence of the global financial crisis. Delegates were particularly interested to learn how Singapore was addressing the problem and were fortunate to be able to meet with senior officers of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). The MAS is Singapore's central bank and controls monetary policy. It is a statutory board with a Director appointed for a three-year term. It has good working relations with the Treasury – the Treasurer being member of the MAS board.
- 2.63 Singapore's was the first Asian economy to go into technical recession in response to the impact of global financial instability. The MAS told delegates that economic weakening had begun in mid-2008 and was expected to continue into 2009. The capital market is a significant part of Singapore's economy, so money markets were hit hard by the crisis. The effect on the rest of the economy was expected to be grim, as Singapore relies very heavily on exports and has no domestic offsets. The MAS added that the suddenness and severity of the financial crisis had caught the world by surprise and that the challenge now is to proceed with heightened vigilance and increased communication.
- 2.64 Nevertheless, the MAS was optimistic about Singapore's recovery, stating that it is difficult to cripple an economy worth US\$30,000 per capita. Prior to the crisis, Singapore had been in a strong economic position, with GDP increasing consistently for a number of years. Singapore's diversified economy and low unemployment rate were also expected to decrease the severity of the recession.
- 2.65 The MAS explained that Singapore's economy is based on the exchange rate rather than the interest rate. This has a considerable affect on inflation in a nation like Singapore that imports all its commodities. The MAS hopes to counteract this by keeping the exchange rate stable. Deflation was characterised as a relatively low risk due to the Singapore Government's strongly coordinated response to the crisis. The MAS stated that it did not see deflation becoming problematic outside the US housing sector, particularly in Asia where a high degree of cash resilience has been developed in recent decades.

- 2.66 On 16 October 2008 the MAS and the Singapore Ministry of Finance issued a joint press release in response to the global financial crisis. The statement sought to reassure consumers that Singapore's financial system and institutions remains sound and that its currency is stable. It also announced the Singapore Government's decision to follow other regional jurisdictions (including Australia and Hong Kong) in guaranteeing deposits in all banks, finance companies and merchant banks licensed by the MAS. The guarantee applies to deposits made by individuals and corporations, not from one bank to another. When questioned by delegates about this decision, the MAS responded that it had primarily been undertaken to maintain public confidence in the banking system. Singapore's banks are required by law to possess assets that exceed their liabilities by an acceptable margin, and all deposits to a value of S\$20,000 were guaranteed under the Deposit Insurance Scheme prior to the announcement. The MAS also hoped that the guarantee would prevent any potentially problematic shift in deposits and 'level the playing field' by avoiding regulatory arbitrage. The MAS stated that the undertaking had produced some "unintended consequences". In the asset management industry, for example, consumers had begun to opt for deposit schemes in preference to equity trusts.

Australia-Singapore Military History

- 2.67 Japan entered the Second World War on 7 December 1941 with its attack on the United States military base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. At that time the UK's colonial territories on the Malaysian Peninsula were poorly defended; the bulk of Commonwealth forces having been deployed to fight the war in Europe. On 8 December 1941 Japanese forces landed near the Thai-Malay border. Rapidly overpowering the outnumbered Commonwealth troops, they swept down the peninsula, driving the Allied forces across the Strait of Johor into Singapore. The colonial masters of Singapore had long been prepared for attack by sea and had fortified the south and south-eastern coast with guns and a large naval presence. However, none had anticipated attack by land, leaving the northern shore entirely undefended. On 8 February 1942 Japanese forces entered Singapore where they met with heavy resistance from local defence units and recently-arrived Commonwealth reinforcement troops. After a week of fierce close-quarter fighting in which thousands were killed, Singapore fell to the Japanese on 15 February. Many more

Commonwealth citizens and troops died under the Japanese occupation of the island, which continued until September 1945.²⁰ Fifteen thousand of those captured were Australians.

- 2.68 Situated at the far north of the island of Singapore, the Kranji War Cemetery started as a small burial ground for internees of the Kranji prisoner of war (POW) camp. After the war, the Army Graves Service declared it a permanent war cemetery. Post-war reconstruction in Singapore meant that the land formerly occupied by POW camps could not long remain undisturbed. In 1946 graves from Changi, the site of Singapore's largest POW camp and an Australian Infantry Force hospital, were moved to Kranji, as were remains from other camps across the island, and elsewhere in South-East Asia. Consequently, Kranji is the final resting place of the first Australian soldier killed in the Vietnam conflict.
- 2.69 The site also contains the remains of civilians and military personnel taken captive by Japanese forces during the closing hours of the Battle of Singapore. The wounded were taken to Kranji hospital, where many died. More than 400 were buried in an emergency water tank dug in the hospital grounds before the war. As individual identification of the dead was deemed impossible, the mass grave was consecrated after the war by the Bishop of Singapore and a cross erected to mark the location.
- 2.70 In addition to some 4,500 war graves, Kranji is home to the Singapore Memorial, which bears the names of more than 24,000 Commonwealth servicemen and women whose final resting place is unknown. Among those commemorated are service personnel killed on active duty in Malaya and Indonesia, those who subsequently perished as POWs and airmen lost during operations throughout the region. More than 2,500 of those buried at Kranji or commemorated on the Singapore Memorial are Australian.
- 2.71 The delegation was honoured to pay tribute to those buried or commemorated at Kranji through the laying of a wreath and recitation of the ANZAC Prayer. All were moved by the stark beauty of the site and by the great sacrifice made by men and women of all ages and nationalities in the defence of our region.

²⁰ Commonwealth Graves Commission, *Kranji War Cemetery and Singapore Memorials*, UK, information brochure



Delegates laying a wreath at Kranji War Cemetery

- 2.72 The immaculate presentation of the Kranji War Cemetery owes much to the work of Manager, Mr Ling Cheng Lai. Mr Ling has spent most of his working life taking meticulous care of the monuments and grounds and is soon to retire. The delegation offers special thanks to Mr Ling for his great efforts on behalf of Australia's war dead and wishes him a long and happy retirement.

People-to-People Links and Bilateral Relations

- 2.73 Singapore is one of Australia's closest regional partners, sharing people-to-people links and bilateral cooperation in defence, regional security, trade, investment and education. Singapore and Australia are the most comparable countries in the region in terms of social and economic development. The 2006 census recorded 39,970 Singaporeans living in Australia, while Australian expatriates residing in Singapore number approximately 19,500. Singapore is also one of Australia's major sources of short term visitors. In 2007 263,800 Singaporeans visited Australia and approximately 768,391

Australians travelled to Singapore, with many more stopping over on their way to third countries.

- 2.74 Australia and Singapore have signed 31 bilateral agreements to date of which 21 remain in force. The depth of the bilateral relationship is reflected in the many high-level visits between the two countries. The first ten months of 2008 saw ten Prime Ministerial and Ministerial visits from Australia to Singapore, while Australia was visited by Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, Wong Kan Seng and Minister for Transport, Raymond Lim.

Singapore-Australia Joint Ministerial Committee

- 2.75 In January 1996 the Prime Ministers of Australia and Singapore established the Singapore-Australia Joint Ministerial Committee (SAJMC). The Committee is led by foreign ministers and attended by ministers responsible for other areas of bilateral cooperation. Meetings are held biennially and include discussions on trade, defence and security.

Defence and Security

- 2.76 Australia's formal defence cooperation with Singapore is extensive and occurs under a number of agreements, the first of which was the FPDA.²¹ There are also a range of agreements giving Singapore access to Australian Defence Force military training and base facilities. These arrangements include:
- the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, where up to 6,600 Singaporean troops may deploy for up to 45 days between August and December each year. The agreement concludes this year, but Singapore is hoping that the agreement will be renewed, with the possibility of extending the arrangements;
 - the Australian Army Aviation Centre at Oakey, which is home to the Singapore Helicopter Facility. The facility opened in 1999 and provides facilities for 12 Super Puma helicopters and 250 personnel and family members; and
 - the Royal Singapore Airforce Flight Training School, which was established at RAAF Base Pearce in March 1993.

²¹ See paragraph 2.43

- 2.77 Australia and Singapore are also active participants in the annual International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security Conference (Shangri-La Dialogue).
- 2.78 Singapore is a strong ally in global security efforts. Bilateral collaboration on counter-terrorism has increased during recent years in the areas of law enforcement, intelligence-sharing and under the FPDA. Australia also cooperates with Singapore to fight trans-national crime, including narcotics trafficking. The keystone of this cooperation is the MOU agreed between the AFP and SPF in 2005.²²

Trade

- 2.79 Australia's strong trade relationship with Singapore has deepened since the Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) entered into force on 28 July 2003. SAFTA is a wide-ranging and comprehensive agreement, covering tariff-free access for goods, improved market access for services and cooperation and trade facilitation in e-commerce, standards, education, intellectual property protection, competition policy and customs procedures. SAFTA builds on Australia's already strong trade and economic relationship with Singapore, and provides a solid legal framework for strengthening economic links and creating new trade opportunities.

Environment

- 2.80 The bilateral relationship between Australia and Singapore was formalised in 1992 through the signing of an MOU on Cooperation in Environmental Management and Protection. The most recent formal bilateral engagement under this arrangement took place in 2002, but Australia and Singapore engage on environmental matters through a number of multilateral fora, such as the:
- East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership, the purpose of which is to protect of migratory birds; and
 - East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting, which took place in Hanoi, Vietnam on 9 October 2008.

²² See paragraph 2.43

Reciprocal Visit

- 2.81 The visit to Singapore provided delegates with the opportunity to renew relationships and strengthen ties with an important regional partner. The valuable exchange between Singapore and Australia was further consolidated in late November 2008 when a delegation from the Parliament of Singapore, led by Speaker Tarmugi, made a reciprocal visit to Australia.

Delegation Visit to Indonesia

- 3.1 The delegation visited Indonesia from Saturday 1 to Saturday 8 November 2008, spending three-and-a-half days in Jakarta and three in Kalimantan Tengah. In order to achieve its objectives, the delegation undertook site visits and attended meetings with parliamentary, government and corporate representatives and members of relevant organisations.

Renewing Links between the Australian and Indonesian Parliaments

Parliament-to-Parliament

- 3.2 The delegation met with the three Presiding Officers of the Indonesian Parliament, Deputy Chairs of the MPR and members of the Commission for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation. These meetings provided valuable opportunities to strengthen the bond between parliaments and to engage in constructive dialogue. Delegates were interested to learn about the similarities and differences between the two parliamentary systems and discussed the many elements of parliamentary life shared with their Indonesian colleagues.
- 3.3 The delegation began its formal engagements in Indonesia with a call on His Excellency Dr M. Hidayat Nur Wahid, Chairman of the MPR, and Deputy Chairs Dr A.M. Fatwa and Mr Aksa Mahmud. Delegates appreciated the warm welcome extended by Dr Nur Wahid and enjoyed a

candid and informative discussion on matters such as the role and functions of the MPR, recent legislative achievements, the election process, civics and citizenship education and Indonesia's endeavours to increase the representation of women in the parliament.

- 3.4 The call on Dr Nur Wahid was followed by a meeting with His Excellency H.R. Agung Laksono, Chairman of the DPR. The delegation was once again received with great hospitality and had many questions, particularly in relation to Indonesia's forthcoming elections. Chairman Laksono stated that democracy was developing rapidly in Indonesia and provided an excellent overview of the two-stage electoral process and the associated legal framework. The conversation also touched on the establishment of Indonesia's new constitutional court, the global financial crisis and environmental and security issues. Chairman Laksono also thanked Australia for its support at the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in Geneva.
- 3.5 This sentiment was echoed by Chairman of the DPD, Dr Ginandjar Kartasmita when the delegation called upon him later in the day. Chairman Kartasmita explained some of the challenges facing the relatively new DPD in establishing a relationship with its 'older brother', the DPR, and its role in representing regional concerns.
- 3.6 Delegates were able to continue their discussions with their Indonesian counterparts at a breakfast meeting hosted by MPR Deputy Chairman, Mr A.M. Fatwa. Topics discussed included interfaith issues, education and people-to-people links.
- 3.7 The delegation enjoyed a discussion with members of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, chaired by Mr Simon Patrice Morin. Mr Morin explained that the committee had been created to foster cooperation between the Indonesian Parliament and the legislatures of other nations and had so far established relations with 37 countries. Members present included Mr Murdaya Widyawimarta, Dr Mudaffar Sjah, Mr Ade Nasution, Mr Atte Sugandi and Mr Soekardjo Hardjosoewirjo. Delegates and committee members agreed that friendship groups play a vital role in developing relationships and understanding between parliamentary peers. Conversation ranged across a number of topics, including Australia's drought, the global financial crisis, trade and the sorrow experienced by both nations in the wake of the 2002 terrorist bombings in Bali.

Meetings with Government

- 3.8 Government-to-Government ties with Indonesia have strengthened over recent years. Former Prime Minister John Howard made some 13 official visits to Indonesia and, from November 2007 to March 2009, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his Ministers have made 19 visits. The delegation was honoured to meet with the President and Vice President of Indonesia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Governor of Kalimantan Tengah. Delegates believe this access to high-level government figures reflects the importance that both countries place on the relationship.
- 3.9 President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono spoke of the importance of the relationship between Australia and Indonesia and the vital part played by the parliaments in maintaining a strong connection. The President and delegates also discussed bilateral efforts to combat climate change and the attendance of both countries at the planned G20 meeting to be held in Washington DC on 14-15 November.
- 3.10 Delegates were also received by Vice President of Indonesia, His Excellency Jusuf Kalla. The very cordial meeting covered a variety of topics of bilateral significance.
- 3.11 During a frank and informative meeting, delegates agreed with Foreign Minister, Dr Hassan Wirajuda that relations between Indonesia and Australia have improved greatly over the preceding five years and are expected to remain positive. The Minister also welcomed Australia's increasing involvement in regional affairs through ASEAN, FTAs and the East Asian Summit. The meeting addressed other matters of regional interest including trade, visas and the impacts of the financial crisis.
- 3.12 Upon its arrival in Kalimantan, the delegation attended an official reception hosted by Provincial Governor, Agustin Teras Narang. The event, held in a traditional Dayak longhouse, was attended by a large number of local officials, including Vice-Governor of Kalimantan, Mr Achmad Diran; Chairman of the Provincial Parliament, Mr Borock Milton; and Mayor of Palangka Raya, Mr Riban Satia. The Governor gave a comprehensive account of the economy and infrastructure of Kalimantan Tengah, highlighting the province's success in human development and its investment potential, particularly in respect of its mineral resources. Delegates appreciated the informative address and the very hospitable welcome provided by the Governor and his people.

Political, Economic and Social Issues

Security and Crime

Prisoner Transfer Scheme

- 3.13 There are currently around 60 Indonesians serving terms in Australian prisons and 10 Australians imprisoned in Indonesia. The latter comprises convicted drug smugglers Schapelle Corby; and Si Yi Chen, Michael Czugaj, Tan Duc Thanh Nguyen, Matthew Norman, Martin Stephens, Renae Lawrence, Andrew Chan, Scott Rush and Myuran Sukumaran (the 'Bali Nine') the latter three of whom are on death row. Australia has an extradition treaty with Indonesia, but under the existing arrangements, offenders must serve the full term of any custodial sentence in the country of conviction.
- 3.14 In 2005, shortly after the sentencing of Schapelle Corby, Australia and Indonesia began discussions on a prisoner transfer agreement. To date, a number of points remain unresolved and an agreement is yet to be concluded.

Bali Bombers

- 3.15 The delegation's arrival in Indonesia coincided with the announcement of the imminent execution of Imam Samudra, Amrozi Nurhasyim and Mukhlas Ghufron, the 'Bali bombers', responsible for the bomb attacks on Paddy's Pub and the Sari Club in Kuta, Bali on 12 October 2002. The two suicide bomb blasts killed 202 people, including 38 Indonesians and 88 Australians. The execution was a recurring topic in conversations with Indonesian hosts, some of whom had been personally affected by the bombing tragedy. The general feelings expressed were those of anger and sorrow at the attack. Delegates took the view that the Indonesian justice system had run its course and that the perpetrators of the bombing were receiving the sentence mandated under Indonesian law.
- 3.16 Discussions on the Bali bombing highlighted the far-reaching effects of the tragedy in both Australia and Indonesia. In this very difficult topic, delegates and hosts found common ground. Delegates observed that the ability to broach difficult subjects is a mark of friendship and that the relationship between Australia and Indonesia has been deepened in some way by common loss.

Migration

- 3.17 During their meeting with Foreign Minister Wirajuda, delegates raised the issue of Australia's skills shortage and the possibility of meeting labour requirements through immigration. Minister Wirajuda said that discussion had been held with Australian Minister for Immigration, Senator Chris Evans, regarding the possibility of streamlining visa requirements to allow more skilled Indonesian workers to visit Australia for short periods, in line with existing arrangements under which Indonesian nurses undertake six months of training in Australia. It is anticipated that the Australian-New Zealand-ASEAN FTA will facilitate the movement of labour within the region, in addition to freeing-up the passage of goods and services.

Global Financial Crisis

- 3.18 Having been hard hit by the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98, Indonesia reformed its financial institutions and pursued more prudent and robust financial policies, including separating central banking functions from the Government to mitigate the impacts of any future market down-turn. By July 2008, these improvements had led to a decreased reliance on exports, increasing investment and better macroeconomic management. As a result, Indonesia's debt to GDP ratio has decreased from 83 to 35 per cent, the ratio of short-term loans to foreign reserves has dropped from 175 per cent to 34.5 per cent and foreign currency reserves have grown. In addition, through its membership of ASEAN, Indonesia has gained access to a regional arrangement under which Japan, China and Korea have pledged US\$85 billion to assist member countries experiencing liquidity problems.
- 3.19 Economic vulnerabilities remain, however, particularly in respect of the financial regulatory framework, which discourages entrepreneurship and inhibits private sector development. Tight labour market regulation and legislation has led to an increase in the real value of the minimum wage, slowing job creation and affecting trade competitiveness, doing nothing to ameliorate the country's high unemployment rate. Prior to the global financial crash late in 2008, Indonesia's GDP was expected to be approximately five per cent; some two per cent below the level required to stimulate job creation.
- 3.20 When global financial markets were thrown into turmoil late in 2008, the Indonesian Government acted quickly to lessen the impact of the crash. Measures taken included:

- arranging stand-by loans from the International Monetary Fund of some US\$5 billion;
- reducing banks' minimum reserve requirement for foreign exchange-dominated deposits from three to one per cent to increase dollar liquidity;
- increasing deposit insurance to cover approximately 97 per cent of deposits; and
- temporarily closing the Indonesian stock exchange.

3.21 Conversations with government and parliamentary representatives produced a mixed assessment of the potential implications of the crisis for Indonesia. Most believed that the Government's speedy response would cushion the nation's economy from the worst of the impact and render the effects of the crisis less severe than those experienced in 1997-98, despite the sudden and unexpected nature of the crash. It was generally accepted that business and industry would suffer, particularly the manufacturing sector. It was further anticipated that the urban sector would be hardest-hit by the crisis. While absorption into the rural economy helped many to weather the 1997-98 crisis, it was posited that this was now less likely as increasingly skilled urban workers would be disinclined to leave the cities to seek agricultural labour.

3.22 As Indonesia's primary export market is developed nations such as the US, Japan and Australia, there was concern that the fall of these economies would have deleterious consequences for Indonesian trade. At the time of the delegation's visit, Indonesian exports to the US had already fallen by 11 per cent, but it was hoped that countries less severely affected by the crisis would make up the short-fall. There was a common agreement that the international situation would worsen if nations were to resort to protectionism. The view of regional trade relationships remained optimistic, however. As the introduction of a number of FTAs has resulted in increased cooperation and interdependence, it was anticipated that the financial crisis will force Asian-Pacific countries to cooperate more closely.

Strengthening Democracy

3.23 Indonesia's commitment to democratic principles is exemplified in its instigation of the Bali Democracy Forum, with sessions co-chaired in December 2008 by Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Indonesian President His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The forum was described by Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda as:

...an inclusive and open forum for the countries of Asia to share experiences and best practices in fostering democracy.¹

- 3.24 Delegates who had been visiting Indonesia over a number of years complimented their parliamentary hosts on the rapid progress of parliamentary democracy. MPR Chairman, Dr Nur Wahid, responded that Indonesia had developed a uniquely Indonesian constitutional democracy that had been enhanced in recent years by the direct election of the President, while DPR Chairman Laksono stated that democracy was developing rapidly and anticipated that the trend would increase as Indonesia observed the processes of other countries and adapted them to its own situation and culture.

Gender representation

- 3.25 A number of parliamentary hosts spoke with the Australian visitors about Indonesia's current efforts to improve gender equality in the legislature. While Indonesia has previously had a female President, the representation of women in parliament stands at 11 per cent in the DPR and 23 per cent in the DPD (which has set a target of 30 per cent). It was anticipated that female representation in the DPR may decrease after the 2009 election due to the dominance of males within the structure of political parties. One proposed measure to redress the imbalance was to encourage women with an established public profile (such as actresses) to stand for election.

Constitutional Court

- 3.26 Delegates were most interested to learn about Indonesia's Constitutional Court (Mahkamah Konstitusi Republik Indonesia, or MK), which first sat in 2003 following the passage of constitutional amendments by the MPR. Chairman Laksono related that the MK was initially a source of some frustration to parliamentarians, as it meant that a law already scrutinised and passed by more than 500 people could be overturned by a court of nine judges, with a majority of five. However, it was soon understood that the MK protects Indonesia's Constitution and ensure the probity and compliance of new legislation.

The role of the DPD

- 3.27 Chairman Kartasmita of the DPD provided the delegation with valuable insights into the role of this relatively new component of Indonesia's

1 United Nations General Assembly, 'Indonesia: H.E. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs', 27 September 2008

legislature and the challenges it faces in carving out its role within the parliamentary system. He explained that, unlike the DPR in which provincial representation is determined by population, the DPD provides equal representation to every province. This is of paramount importance in a nation where the population of one province (Java) is sufficiently large to command 60 per cent of seats in the DPR. Chairman Kartasmita observed that the representation of minority groups is a defining feature of democracy and that the DPD fulfils this important role.

- 3.28 The electoral methods of the DPR and DPD also differ. DPD candidates run as individuals, whereas DPR candidates must have the backing of a political party. DPD candidates may belong to a party, but can not stand for election on a party platform. This is reflected on ballot papers- DPD voting slips bear the candidates' names and photographs, whereas DPR forms list candidates by name and party symbol.
- 3.29 Chairman Kartasmita stated that the DPD was initially conceived as the 'upper house' of a bicameral parliament, but that the idea proved unpopular due to its association with federalism-which in Indonesia is synonymous with colonialism. This has resulted in a 'diluted' bicameralism which minimises the legislative powers of the DPD. Chairman Kartasmita expressed the hope that the DPD may one day be able to operate as a true 'house of review' with the power to scrutinise all legislative proposals.

2009 General Elections

- 3.30 Delegates learned that Indonesia's 2009 elections will be run for the first time under new legislation designed to minimise the large and sometimes confusing array of presidential candidates and political parties running in general elections. The *Presidential Election Law 2008* was passed in late October. It changes the eligibility requirements for presidential candidates to include a parliamentary support base of 20 to 25 per cent. It is hoped that this will decrease the field of candidates and ensure parliamentary stability under the successful candidate. The *Legislative Election Law* passed in March 2008 requires that, in order to run candidates in a general election, a political party must have achieved a threshold of 2.5 per cent of the vote at the previous general election. Previously, an 'indirect threshold' allowed parties with less than 2.5 per cent of the votes to enter parliament, but did not permit them to run in subsequent elections. This led to a proliferation of parties and fragmented the political landscape. Under these legislative reforms it is hoped that two or three strong presidential candidates will emerge and the 38 political parties that stood candidates in 2004 can be reduced to a more manageable seven or eight.

- 3.31 A further electoral change will be the method for marking ballot papers. In 2009, voters will indicate their choice by drawing a tick or a cross, rather than poking a hole in the paper. Apparently the only country that continues to employ the latter method is the Republic of Cameroon.
- 3.32 At the time of the delegation's visit, Indonesia's electoral commissioner had recently finalised list of eligible voters for the 2009 elections. More than 171 million electors have registered; an increase of some 20 million since 2004.

Development Cooperation

- 3.33 Development cooperation is an important element of bilateral relations between Australia and Indonesia. The current A\$462 million development program will not be delivered via traditional project components, but will engage government agencies and non-government organisations of both nations to work together to achieve outcomes. The new program focuses on capacity-building, infrastructure, service delivery, health and climate change.

Climate Change Initiatives

- 3.34 The Government, parliament and people of Indonesia acknowledge and place great importance on the issue of climate change. As an equatorial country, Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to its effects. Indonesia has established a trans-agency body to oversee climate change policy and the parliament is consistently supportive of the Government's increasing efforts to address the issue.
- 3.35 Australia's development cooperation on climate change with Indonesia takes place under the aegis of the International Forest Carbon Initiative (IFCI), which was announced by Australian Government in April 2008 and replaced the former government's Global Initiative on Forests and Climate. IFCI programs operating in Indonesia are:
- a A\$3 million research partnership on policy and technical issues associated with reducing emissions from deforestation;

- the Asia-Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Program (estimated to cost A\$15.8 million over 4 years), which is manifested in Indonesia through the Tropical Forest Foundation, for which A\$1 million has been allocated to provide training in reduced impact logging and related forest market-linking activities; and the
- A\$30 million IAFCP.

Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership

- 3.36 The IAFCP was announced By Prime Minister Kevin Rudd during his visit to Indonesia in June 2008. The program will provide a total of A\$30 million for:
- bilateral support on forests and climate; and
 - the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership.
- 3.37 The bilateral package component of the IAFCP comprises A\$10 million to assist in:
- the establishment of national policy framework for REDD;
 - creation of a Forest Resource Information System; and
 - development of a national carbon accounting system.
- 3.38 The KFCP existed prior to the inception of the IAFCP. It constitutes a practical demonstration of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)². It is the first project of its type to be undertaken in Indonesia and is expected to serve as a model for other developing countries. Australia has contributed A\$30 million to the project and hopes to raise a further A\$70 million from other donors, including the private sector.
- 3.39 The first stage of the KFCP will be implemented in an area of 100,000 hectares of degraded and forested peatland within the former Mega-Rice Project area. The project will:
- reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation by preventing fires, protecting surviving peatland and forest and providing alternative income sources for communities; and

2 The REDD concept is based on the assumption that if preserving and managing forests can deliver greater financial benefits than clearing forests, deforestation and associated greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced.

- restore compromised peatland by blocking canals and replanting cleared and degraded areas.
- 3.40 Australian Government agencies will carry out activities under the KFCP in close cooperation with other conservation organisations already working in the area, including:
- World Wildlife Fund Indonesia;
 - Wetlands International;
 - CARE International;
 - the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF);
 - the University of Palangka Raya;
 - Kalimantan Tengah's provincial Planning and Development Agency; and
 - the Government of Indonesia's inter-agency working group on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Indonesia.
- 3.41 Payment to those involved in the project at national, provincial, district and community level will be managed to ensure equitable and appropriate remuneration based on performance, while greenhouse gas emissions will be monitored and measured.

The importance of peat

- 3.42 Peatlands, or peat swamps, are a unique form of wetland. Peat consists of carbon-rich plant matter accumulated over thousands of years in acidic, water-logged conditions that prevent the vegetable matter from decomposing and releasing carbon into the atmosphere. Peatlands therefore serve as 'carbon sinks'. Although peatlands cover only three per cent of the earth's surface, they collectively store up to 528,000 million tonnes of carbon. Deforestation and drainage of peatlands causes them to dry out. This speeds up decomposition and leaves them vulnerable to fire, both of which result in high greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3.43 Indonesia's 22.5 million hectares of peatlands and peat forests represent about half of the world's total and provide a diverse habitat for numerous plant and animal species. The peatlands and peat forests of Kalimantan Tengah have been severely diminished and degraded by:
- clearing for agricultural purposes;
 - legal and illegal logging which also involves the excavation of large canals through the peat to transport cut logs; and

- forest and peat fires exacerbated by clearing practices.³

3.44 Destroying vegetation and cutting canals reduces the peat's ability to retain water during the dry season, rendering it vulnerable to fire. In 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2006, the overwhelming majority of Indonesia's bushfires occurred on cleared peatland. In 1997-98 fires destroyed approximately 2.1 million hectares of Kalimantan's peatlands and were sufficiently severe to create a pall of smoke across South-East Asia and cause health problems throughout the region. In recent years, such fires have become a regular feature of the dry season. The burning and degradation of peatland is now believed to be Indonesia's largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Mega-Rice legacy

3.45 Much of Kalimantan Tengah's degraded peatland is a result of the Suharto-era Mega-Rice Project, which in the mid-1990s cleared 1.4 million of the provinces 3.1 million hectares of peatland to grow rice. The project entailed the logging of thousands of native trees, excavation of 4,600 kilometres of canals and the importation from Java of thousands of workers, for whom housing and roads were constructed. Unfortunately, the project failed due to the absence of any research into the agricultural potential of drained peat swamp. The canals, which were intended to supply the rich soils with river water, actually drained the peatlands, leaving a layer of decomposed vegetable matter several metres thick. In 1998, three years after its commencement, the project had failed to produce rice. After the resignation of President Suharto it was declared a failure and abandoned.

3.46 In addition to leaving the peatlands vulnerable to annual fires, the Mega-Rice legacy reduced the water level, decreasing the availability of fresh drinking water and converted a former carbon sink into a major carbon dioxide emitter. The abandoned land proved useless for any other form of agriculture, even basic subsistence farming. While most of the immigrant Javanese left Kalimantan Tengah, those that remained had no means to support themselves. Some resorted to illegal logging, which places further stress on the ecosystem, reduces biodiversity and increases pressure on endangered species such as orangutan, rhinoceros and tigers.

³ Taman Nasional Sebanau and WWFI, *Sebangau National Park at a Glimpse*, information brochure

Oil palm cultivation

- 3.47 The problems of the peatlands have been compounded by increased global demand for palm oil, which is used extensively in the food industry and – ironically – as an emissions-reducing alternative to fossil fuels. A native of South America, the oil palm will thrive in nutrient-poor tropical soils, such as those left behind by the Mega-Rice Project. The large-scale planting of oil palms transforms the formerly diverse peat swamp ecosystem into a monoculture and leads to increased carbon dioxide emissions. An additional disadvantage of oil palm estates is that the majority are funded and operated by external parties. Local small-holders who lease their land to oil palm companies receive payment for the use of the land, but can no longer access it to grow food. The small-holder may then turn to practices such as illegal logging to earn a living.

Rehabilitating the peatlands

- 3.48 The KFCP seeks to demonstrate practical and market-oriented approaches to financing and implementing REDD. As such, it adopts a holistic approach to combating the restoration and conservation of peatlands. The biological impacts of peatland degradation will be tackled by:
- blocking drainage and logging canals to restore natural hydrology;
 - replanting local peat forest species; and
 - establishing field stations in rehabilitation areas to monitor progress and deter illegal logging.
- 3.49 In addition to the physical regeneration and preservation of swamp and forest, the project also seeks to address the socio-economic elements of peatland degradation by:
- providing communities with sustainable economic alternatives to logging, such as fishery, agriculture, rattan, rubber, aloe vera cultivation and ecotourism;
 - building capacity in local communities to access markets for their produce; and
 - adopting a collaborative management mode that gives all parties ownership of the project.⁴

4 Taman Nasional Sebanau and WWFI, *Sebangau National Park at a Glimpse*, information brochure

- 3.50 On 7 November 2008, the delegation visited Sebangau National Park in Kalimantan Tengah where a range of the activities proposed for implementation under the KFCP are being tested in an area formerly utilised for commercial logging. Delegates witnessed the environmental benefits of blocking canals and the successful replanting of peat forest tree species. The site boasts a large propagation nursery and each visitor was invited to contribute to the future success of peatland rehabilitation by planting a native tree.



A canal constructed in Sebangau National Park to restore natural peatland hydrology

Orangutan Conservation

- 3.51 The destruction of Indonesia's forests has had devastating consequences for Asia's only great ape, the orangutan. Both orangutan species, the Sumatran and the Bornean, are native to Indonesia and both have been placed on the endangered list by diminishing habitat and illegal capture for the wildlife trade. At the current rate of forest clearing, it is estimated that orangutan could be extinct in the wild within the next five years.
- 3.52 Through AusAID, Australia is providing A\$0.5 million over four years from 2007 to assess the orangutan conservation benefit of activities under

the IFCI. The Australian Government is also involved in the identification of High Conservation Value Forest for protection or sustainable management and the creation of corridors to maintain connectivity between forests to prevent 'islandization'. Australia is also funding the development of a computer model to support orangutan conservation under differing levels of REDD financing.⁵

The orangutan

- 3.53 Oran Hutan is Bahasa for 'people of the forest'. Indonesia's indigenous peoples wouldn't kill orangutan, believing them to be hairy humans hiding in the forest. Genetic research has subsequently revealed that the orangutan is among humankind's closest relatives, sharing 90 per cent of our DNA. Orangutan are unique, not only as the only great ape originating outside of Africa, but because of their red hair and because they have four 'hands', rather than morphologically distinct 'hands' and 'feet'. The Orangutan is also the only arboreal ape. Chimpanzees, bonobos (pygmy chimps) and gorillas may build sleeping nests in trees, but spend the bulk of their waking life on the ground.
- 3.54 Like gorillas, orangutan exhibit considerable sexual dimorphism. Adult males can grow to weigh over 200 pounds, while females generally reach only a half to a third of this size. As a consequence of their size, males tend to spend more time on the ground than females. Mature males also develop characteristic cheek pouches and a throat sac. They inflate the throat sac to produce the 'long call' which advertises their presence to receptive females and warns off other males.
- 3.55 Orangutan have a life-span of 35 to 40 years in the wild and up to 50 in captivity. They reach puberty at around 8 years and females start reproducing in their teens. A female orangutan will give birth to four or five infants during her lifetime. The relatively slow rate of reproduction means that the population can not regenerate quickly. Only humans have a longer dependent infancy than orangutan, who nurse their infants until the age of six. Male orangutan remain with their mothers until puberty and then lead solitary lives, except during mating, when they will stay with their partner for a few days. Females live with their mothers into their teens. This allows a young female watch how her mother cares for younger siblings.

5 Jarvis, Ben, 'Orangutan Conservation in a Large Multifunctional Landscape in Berau and East Kutai, East Kalimantan', Progress Update #1, The Nature Conservancy

- 3.56 In the wild, orangutan obtain all their food and water from the trees, subsisting on bark, flowers, leaves, insects and over 330 types of fruit. The relative scarcity of food in the tropical forests may account for the solitary existence of the orangutan, as they form small groups and socialize in times of abundance. Orangutan are thought to have a detailed mental map of their environment and are able to remember when each food type will be in season. The capacity to retain this information conserves valuable energy that would be wasted on random foraging. As part of their long childhood training, infant orangutan learn everything necessary for survival in the complex forest environment, including which plant species are edible, how to process tough or spiny fruits to render them palatable and when and where each species will be available. Orangutan have also been observed to use simple tools, such as rocks and sticks, to aid them in their foraging activities, and to hold branches over their heads like umbrellas to protect themselves from tropical downpours.

Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Reintroduction Project

- 3.57 The delegation visited the Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Reintroduction Project on their first day in Kalimantan Tengah. The facility is located 28 kilometres from Palangka Raya in the Nyaru Menteng Arboretum – a 62.5 hectare peat-swamp forest ecosystem founded in 1988 by the regional office of the Ministry of Forestry. The project is funded and managed by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) in cooperation with the provincial branch of the Ministry of Forestry. The Nyaru Menteng reintroduction centre is managed by Lone Droscher-Nielsen, a Dane who spent four years as a volunteer carer for infant orangutan at Tanjung Puting before founding the Nyaru Menteng facility with her Dayak husband Odom. The project has a clinic, quarantine facilities, socialization cages and a secluded forest that gives young orangutan a safe first experience of life in the wild. The Nyaru Menteng staff consists of 147 people: 37 babysitters, 48 assistants, five in the medical department, 32 guards and 35 other workers. At the time of the delegation's visit, the centre was providing care for approximately 600 rescued and orphaned orangutan.⁶
- 3.58 The Nyaru Menteng Centre has also acquired three islands in the Rongan River that are used for final training of rescued and rehabilitated orangutan before their release into the wild. One island is home to larger orangutans that have spent most of their lives in captivity and can only survive in the forest with continued supervision.

6 savetheorangutan.org/bos-projects/nyaru-menteng/

- 3.59 Like human babies, infant orangutan require constant care and supervision for the first years of life. The BOSF program allocates each rescued and orphaned infant to a carer who is effectively the infant's surrogate mother during the period of greatest dependence. Up to 90 per cent of rescued orangutan arrive at the centre with contagious zoonotic diseases such as hepatitis, while others have experienced severe physical and/or psychological trauma. This makes their care quite costly. In order to fund its activities, BOSF offers the public the opportunity to sponsor an infant orangutan for an annual fee. The Australian orangutan adoption website can be found at: www.orangutans.com.au.



An orphaned orangutan enjoying a snack at the Nyaru Menteng Centre

Education

Australia-Indonesia Basic Education Program

- 3.60 Initiated in 2006, AIBEP is designed to support Indonesia's medium-term development goal of providing nine years of basic education to each child. It is the first major program financed by Australia to place chief responsibility for management and delivery in Indonesian hands. The A\$335 million program consists of:

- an infrastructure component of A\$285 million for construction or expansion of approximately 2,000 general and Islamic junior secondary schools; and
- a technical assistance component of A\$70 million to improve the quality of teaching and learning, learning resources, examinations and assessments, and schools policy and management.

- 3.61 While Indonesia has already achieved rate of 95 per cent enrolment in primary school, junior secondary school participation stands at approximately 65 per cent, due to lack of access in poor, remote and under-serviced areas. AIBEP operates in 21 of Indonesia's provinces and by November 2008 had delivered 922 new junior secondary schools, 44 of which are located in Kalimantan Tengah. It is expected that by the end of 2009, the program will have delivered 2,024 schools (648 general and 500 Islamic), which will provide some 330,000 additional places and basic educational equipment for students aged 13 to 15 years.
- 3.62 Although funded by the Australian Government through AusAID, AIPEB expenditure is disbursed through the Indonesian Ministry of Finance (or, in the case of Islamic schools, a Managing Contractor) to construction committees. The schools are built by local communities using local materials, labour and equipment, under direction of either the Ministry of National Education or the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
- 3.63 The phased delivery of the schools has resulted in continuous improvement in project management and delivery with each successive construction cycle. Innovations that have come with experience include:
- development of a construction monitoring and management database;
 - use of construction quality checklists;
 - inspections by roaming field monitors; and
 - improved financial management and accountability.
- 3.64 On 7 November 2008, the delegation attended the inauguration of Katingan Hilir 5 Junior Secondary School in the village of Kasongan Lama, 80 kilometres north-west of Palangka Raya. The district of Katingan has a junior secondary enrolment rate of 62.13%, which is lower than the national average.
- 3.65 Construction of the school commenced in December 2007 and was completed in July 2008 at a cost of A\$152,555. The school can accommodate up to 240 students. It has six classrooms, an administration building, toilets and change rooms for students and teachers, a canteen

and a guard house. The school significantly enhances the educational opportunities for local children, as the other public junior high school in the area is vastly overcrowded, while the two local private schools are beyond the economic means of many families. Delegates received a warm welcome to Katingan Hilir 5 and were delighted to be able to spend some time talking to the students and their teachers.

LAPIS – Learning Assistance Program for Islamic Schools

- 3.66 The LAPIS program commenced in June 2004 and will be completed in December 2009. The program provides A\$30 million to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the 90 per cent of private Islamic schools that teach the Indonesian national curriculum. Funds have been used to improve management and teaching skills, to develop school libraries, to provide text books and for basic English language training. Two LAPIS projects supported in Kalimantan enabled students to run their own school libraries.

People-to-People Links and Bilateral Relations

- 3.67 Australia and Indonesia share a close and comprehensive bilateral relationship, cooperating in the spheres of culture, education, defence and security, economics and trade, and environmental protection. As near neighbours, people-to-people links between the two countries are strong, with personal and educational travel rating among the most significant elements of bilateral trade.⁷ At the taking of the 2006 Census, Australia was home to more than 50,970 Indonesian-born people, while more than 12,000 Australians reside in Indonesia. Upon arrival in Indonesia, delegates were assured that the relationship between the two countries was as positive as it has ever been and that they were among friends. Delegates who had previously visited Indonesia concurred that relations between the two nations have become stronger.

Travel Advisory

- 3.68 The only point of contention encountered in discussions with parliamentary and government hosts was the issue of the Australian Government's travel advice in relation to Indonesia. At present, the

⁷ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Indonesia Fact Sheet*, September 2008

advice recommends that those intending to travel to Indonesia reconsider the necessity of their visit, as the threat of terrorist attack remains high. A number of Indonesian parliamentarians expressed the view that the warning is too strong and impedes the development of mutual understanding and people-to-people contacts. Chairman of the MPR, His Excellency Dr M. Hidayat Nur Wahid, stated on Indonesian television news the travel warning strains bilateral ties and demonstrates that:

Australia appears doubtful about Indonesia's capability in providing security to travellers in Indonesia.⁸

- 3.69 The delegation took note of their hosts' concerns, but explained that the Australian Government has a duty to protect its citizens and to provide sufficient information to allow Australian travellers to make an educated choice. Delegates also observed that while the travel advisory has been unchanged for a number of years, Australians continue to 'vote with their feet', with the result that 2008 saw the largest ever number of Australians visit Indonesia.

The Australia-Indonesia Institute

- 3.70 The Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII) was established by the Australian Government in 1989 to promote understanding and create opportunities for exchange between the two nations. On 4 November 2008, delegates were pleased to attend the Institute's 20th Anniversary celebration in Jakarta. The event was also attended by members of the Institute Board, members and officials of the Indonesian Government, academics, business representative, cultural contacts, media and embassy personnel.
- 3.71 In 2006-07 the AII funded 31 projects, including an exchange program of Muslim students between the two countries and other media, youth, sporting and cultural exchanges.

Arts and Culture

- 3.72 In March 2008 the Australian Government announced the IN2OZ program, which aims to facilitate cultural and artistic exchange between Australia and Indonesia. An initiative of the Australian International Cultural Council, IN2OZ promotes Australian creativity in science, technology, education and the arts and demonstrates Australia's qualities of acceptance and diversity. Under the program, Australian musicians

⁸ *MetroTV*, *Jaknews.com*, *Kapanlagi*, *TransTV*, news bulletin, Wednesday 5 November, 2008

participated in the March 2008 JavaJazz festival and Australian writers attended the annual Ubud Writers and Readers Festival in October 2008. IN2OZ also sponsored a travelling science education exhibition and an exhibition of new media art, and supported preservation programs in Indonesian museums.

Interfaith dialogue

- 3.73 Australia and Indonesia co-hosted the inaugural regional Interfaith Dialogue in December 2004. The aim of the initiative was to empower moderate religious leaders and highlight role of faith and community leaders in building harmony throughout South-East Asia. New Zealand and the Philippines joined Australia and Indonesia for the second regional Interfaith Dialogue in 2006. The third was held in New Zealand in 2007 and the fourth in Cambodia in April 2008.
- 3.74 In June 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd signed MOUs with Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, Indonesia's two largest faith-based Muslim community organisations, to continue cooperation in such areas as health, education and disaster response. The organisations will receive A\$900,000 and A\$1.5 million respectively to carry out disaster preparedness work.
- 3.75 On Tuesday, 4 November the delegation visited Masjid Istiqlal (Independence Mosque), reportedly the largest mosque in South-East Asia. The mosque was built under President Suharto to commemorate Indonesia's independence from the Netherlands in 1949. Construction commenced in 1961 and the building was inaugurated in 1978. The mosque comprises five levels and can accommodate 120,000 worshippers. In addition to religious services, the mosque provides facilities for social and cultural activities, including lectures, exhibitions, seminars, conferences, bazaars and programmes for women, young people and children. Delegates enjoyed learning about the history of the mosque and were impressed by the scale of the building and its peaceful atmosphere.

Education

- 3.76 Australia and Indonesia have a strong bilateral relationship on education, with some 15,000 Indonesian students enrolled in Australian institutions. This represents a contribution to the Australian economy of approximately A\$500 million per annum.
- 3.77 In 2009 the Australian Government will implement its A\$62 million National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools program, which will promote the study of Asian languages and cultures in high

schools. Bahasa Indonesia, together with Japanese, Korean and Mandarin, is one of the program's four priority languages. During his visit to Indonesia in August 2008, Foreign Minister Stephen Smith announced a twinning program to link Australian schools teaching Bahasa with some of the Indonesian schools being constructed under the AIBEP program.

- 3.78 Education is a significant component of Australian in-country development assistance to Indonesia, particularly through the AIBEP⁹. In addition, programs such as the Australian Scholarships Program and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Fellowships Scheme provide opportunities for Indonesian students to undertake post-graduate research in Australia. About 300 Australian Government scholarships are awarded to Indonesian post-graduate students each year. The Indonesian Government also provides a number of scholarships for Indonesians to study in Australia.

Security

- 3.79 Australia and Indonesia share a strong commitment to the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Lombok Treaty

- 3.80 The Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation (Lombok Treaty) was signed in Lombok in November 2006 and was brought into force in February 2008 following an exchange of notes between Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Stephen Smith, and his Indonesian counterpart, Dr Hassan Wirajuda. The purpose of the agreement is to increase bilateral cooperation and exchanges on security-related matters through the provision of a sound legal framework for dialogue and joint activities for combating terrorism, international crime in the areas of defence, law enforcement, counter-terrorism, intelligence, transport security, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and emergency management and response. The agreement provides a basis for the establishment of MOUs in specific areas. It is envisaged that the agreement will enhance regional stability and security. The agreement also provides for mutual respect and recognition of each party's sovereign territory.

9 see paragraphs 3.60 to 3.65

- 3.81 The treaty was supported by both the Indonesian Government and the Parliament, receiving the approval of the DPR Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and the wider membership of the DPR.
- 3.82 In June 2008 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and President Yudhoyono agreed to expand security cooperation under the treaty. When the delegation met Minister Wirajuda early in November 2008, he advised that he would be travelling to Canberra the following week to endorse a plan of action that would outline agreed priority areas of security cooperation between Australia and Indonesia over the next 12 to 18 months.

Counter-Terrorism

- 3.83 Throughout its meetings with Government and parliamentary representatives the delegation was impressed by Indonesia's strong commitment to apprehending and prosecuting those responsible for acts of terrorism. At the time of the delegation's visit, Indonesian authorities had successfully prosecuted almost 200 terrorists and their accomplices. This attitude is consistent with the tireless manner in which Australian and Indonesian authorities have collaborated to investigate a number of terrorism incidents, including the 2002 and 2005 Bali bombings and the 2004 bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta.
- 3.84 Australia and Indonesia have been leaders in regional counter-terrorism. In February 2002 they signed an MOU on counter-terrorism, which was renewed annually until February 2008, when it was renewed for a further three years. The two nations jointly hosted the Sub-Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism in Jakarta in 2007. The conference resulted in increased regional counter-terrorism cooperation and the establishment of priorities for future counter-terrorism activities in South-East Asia. Practical cooperation on counter-terrorism between Australia and Indonesia includes capacity-building assistance to Indonesian agencies in the areas of law-enforcement, terrorism financing, border control, transport security and intelligence. They have also jointly established the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, a training centre for regional law enforcement officials, to which Australia will contribute a total of A\$36.8 million from 2004 to 2009.

People smuggling

- 3.85 Australia and Indonesia hosted regional ministerial conferences on people smuggling and trafficking in 2002 and 2003, setting in motion the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process). The Bali Process is a collaborative

effort among 50 countries and numerous international agencies. In August 2008 Foreign Ministers Stephen Smith and Hassan Wirajuda undertook to revive the Bali Process, including through a Ministerial-level meeting in early-mid 2009.

Illegal fishing

- 3.86 Illegal fishing in Australia's northern waters has a deleterious impact on the marine environment and also has serious quarantine, migration and security implications. Australia and Indonesia are cooperating closely to address the problem. In 2006 Australia committed A\$389 million over four years to combat the problem through such measures as:
- conduct of a joint Australian-Indonesian study of illegal fishing in the Timor and Arafura seas;
 - establishment of a surveillance forum and working group comprising Australian and Indonesian fisheries personnel;
 - instigation of a community education campaign targeted at potential illegal fishers; and
 - patrol and enforcement activities.

Avian influenza

- 3.87 Indonesia was severely affected by the outbreak of avian influenza. Since 2004 Australia has provided a total of A\$34 million to combat the disease. The sum includes:
- an initial A\$15.5 million to provide rapid response teams, detection training for laboratory staff and 50,000 courses of antiviral medication; and
 - A \$18.5 million over four years from 2006 to improve disease control, provide community education and increase monitoring of animal and human cases.

Economics and Trade

- 3.88 Trade with Indonesia is very important to Australia. Indonesia was the first country visited Minister for Trade, the Hon Simon Crean, upon the formation of the Rudd Government in late 2007. In August 2008 trade between Australia and Indonesia received a considerable boost through the conclusion of the multilateral ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA). The AANZFTA fortifies Australia's trade

relations with ASEAN nations and is expected to result in greater freedom in trade and investment. Both governments are currently working on a joint feasibility study to determine the merits of a bilateral Indonesia-Australia FTA.

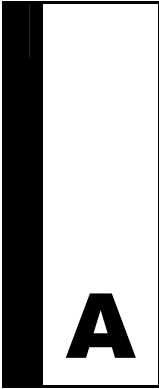
- 3.89 Trade and investment are also promoted through the Trade and Investment Framework agreed in 2005, while annual dialogue continues through the Australia-Indonesia Trade Ministers' Meeting.

Media Coverage

- 3.90 Indonesia enjoys a free and vibrant media culture. The visit by the Australian delegation received considerable press coverage in both the print and broadcast media, most of which was very positive. On their first afternoon in Jakarta, delegates also enjoyed watching (and in once instance, participating in,) a friendly soccer match between the Australian Embassy and staff of the popular newspaper *Rakyat Merdeka* (literally 'free people'). After a close game, *Rakyat Merdeka* triumphed four goals to three. Press clippings from the visit are located at Appendix B.



Speaker Jenkins with the Australian Embassy and *Rakyat Merdeka* Soccer teams



Appendix A-Delegation Program

Singapore

Tuesday 28 October

Briefing at Australian High Commission

Tour of Parliament House and briefing on voting system

Call on Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore

Meeting with Singapore-Australia Friendship Group chaired by Mr Hri Kumar MP

Lunch with the Singapore-Australia Friendship Group

Tour of the Civil Aviation Authority and briefing, Changi Airport

Reception at Australian High Commission

Wednesday 29 October

Call on Associate Professor Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources

Briefing and tour at Sembcorp Environmental Management Pty Ltd

Lunch

Briefing on Singapore Integrated Water Resource Management and tour of NEWater Visitor Centre

Dinner hosted by Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore

Thursday 30 October

Tour and briefing at National Trades Union Congress

Lunch at National Trades Union Congress hosted by Secretary-General, Minister Lim Swee Say

Briefing and tour of Ministry of Home Affairs

Trip aboard Singapore Flyer

Friday 31 October

Tour and briefing at Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

Tour and briefing at the Ministry of Defence

Lunch hosted by Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence

Tour and briefing at Kranji War Memorial

Saturday 1 November

Depart Singapore for Jakarta

Indonesia

Sunday 2 November

Briefing by Australian Embassy staff

Soccer match between Australian Embassy and *Rakyat Merdeka*

Monday 3 November

Call on His Excellency Dr M Hidayat Nur Wahid, Speaker of the MPR

Call on His Excellency H.R. Agung Laksono, Speaker of the DPR

Private lunch with Australian business and investment representatives

Call on His Excellency Dr Ginandjar Kartasasmita Speaker of the DPD

Meeting with Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, chaired by Mr Simon Patrice Morin

Formal Dinner hosted by His Excellency Dr M Hidayat Nur Wahid, Speaker of the MPR

Tuesday 4 November

Breakfast meeting hosted by Mr A.M. Fatwa, Deputy Speaker of the MPR

Tour of Masjid Istiqlal

Depart for Vice-Presidential Palace

Meeting with His Excellency Vice President Mr Yusuf Kalla

Lunch with International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration and Indonesian trade union representatives

Meeting with His Excellency Dr Hassan Wirajuda Minister for Foreign Affairs

Meet with His Excellency President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Reception for 20th Anniversary of the Australia-Indonesia Institute

Wednesday 5 November

Meeting and lunch with Agustin Teras Narang, Governor of Kalimantan Tengah

Briefing by Robin Taylor, Counsellor (AusAID) and Mr Tim Jessup, Forests and Climate Change Specialist (AusAID) on AusAID projects in Kalimantan Tengah

Briefing and tour of Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Centre

Reception at KMC Hotel with University of Palangkaraya academics, Australian volunteers, and Palangka Raya Development Committee

Thursday 6 November

Boat trip from Kereng Bangkirai Port for World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Base Camp at Sebangau National Park

Briefing by Ms Sendy Rosendra, WWF Project Leader, Sebangau National Park

Tour of WWF Sebangau National Park Field Site

Lunch at WWF Base Camp

Return boat trip to Kereng Bangkirai Port

Dinner with Members of Regional Parliament, forestry and economic officials at KMC Hotel

Friday 7 November

Attend inauguration of Katingan Hilir 5 Junior Secondary School

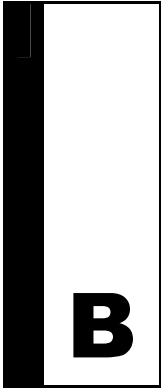
Boat trip from Tengkilung Port to Kanarakan Dayak Village

Tour of Kanarakan Dayak Village

Return boat trip to Tengkilung Port

Saturday 8 November

Depart for Australia



Appendix B-Media Clippings

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
JAKARTA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
Summary of Items in Indonesian Media
Relevant to Australia-Indonesia Relations

No. 212

Monday, 03 November 2008

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA RELATIONS

Friendly game (*Rakyat Merdeka*, 3/11/08, p1.16)

1. *Rakyat Merdeka* carries four pictures and two reports about a friendly football game between the newspapers and the Australian Embassy teams respectively under the headings "Kangaroo Country's Football Diplomacy" and "Kobar Devil Bombs Kangaroo". The game is watched by the visiting Australian parliamentary delegation and won by the *Rakyat Merdeka* team 4-3.

No. 213

Tuesday, 04 November 2008

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA RELATIONS

Parliamentary delegation's visit (*Antara*, 3/11/08, *tvOne*, 3/11/08)

2. House of Representatives (DPR) Speaker Agung Laksono received the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, Harry Jenkins, at the Parliament Building in Jakarta on Monday. Afterwards Jenkins paid a call to People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Chairman Hidayat Nurwahid at the same building.

No. 214

Wednesday, 05 November 2008

Parliamentary visit (*Antara*, 4/11/08, *The Jakarta Post*, 5/11/08, p9, *Media Indonesia*, 5/11/08, p2, *Kompas*, 5/11/08, p15, *Sinar Harapan*, 4/11/08, p2, *Suara Pembaruan*, 4/11/08, p2, *TVRI*, 3/11/08, *Jaknews.com*, 3/11/08, *Koran Internet*, 3/11/08, *tvOne*, 3/11/08, *Suara Karya-online*, 4/11/08, *TransTV*, 3/11/0)

3. (*Antara*, *The Jakarta Post*, *Kompas*) President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono received a parliamentary delegation from Australia led by Henry Jenkins. In the meeting with the Australian delegation, the president emphasized the importance of the two countries' relations that also needed support from the two countries' parliaments. The president also discussed the planned meeting of G20 countries to be held in Washington DC on November 14-15. Other issues discussed at the meeting included cooperation between the two countries in forest conservation to support climate change control programs. *The Jakarta Post* and *Media Indonesia* each carry a photograph showing Jenkins shaking hands with Yudhoyono.

4. *Sinar Harapan* and *Suara Pembaruan* each carry a photograph showing House of Representatives (DPR) Speaker Agung Laksono shaking hands with his Australian counterpart, Harry Jenkins, in Jakarta on Monday. The caption says that the visit also discusses the Australian government's travel warning in light of the impending execution of the three Bali bombers on death row. *TVRI* aired a report about the meeting.
5. (*Jaknews.com, Koran Internet, tvOne, Suara Karya-online, TransTV*) House of Representatives (DPR) Speaker Agung Laksono said he and his Australian counterpart, Harry Jenkins, discussed efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries, and did not specifically talk about the planned execution of Bali I bombers Amrozi et al. He said they did not discuss the planned execution of Amrozi et al. However, Jenkins did convey Australia's view on enforcement of the law in the cases of convicted terrorists in Indonesia. "Regarding Indonesia's actions against terrorism, Australia is quite satisfied," Laksono said.
6. (*Jaknews*) People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Speaker Hidayat Nur Wahid said after meeting the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, Harry Jenkins, that not all Australian people agreed with the execution of the three Bali bombers on death row.
7. (*MetroTV, Jaknews.com, Kapanlagi, TransTV*) People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Speaker Hidayat Nur Wahid said Australia's travel warning to Indonesia strained the bilateral ties. "The travel warning renewal has strained Indonesia-Australia ties. Australia appears doubtful about Indonesia's capability in providing security to travellers to Indonesia," he said after meeting the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, Harry Jenkins, in Jakarta on Monday.

Parliamentary visit (*Kompas-online, 5/11/08, Okezone.com, 5/11/08, Berita Sore-online, Kompas, 6/11/08, p24, Sinar Harapan, 5/11/08, p3*)

8. (*Okezone*) Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer, welcomed the visit by an Australian Parliamentary delegation to Indonesia this week as part of regular official exchanges between our two parliaments. "The visit is part of the deepening interaction between our two democracies," said Farmer.
9. (*Kompas-online*) President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono received a parliamentary delegation from Australia led by Henry Jenkins in Jakarta on Tuesday. The two discussed the planned meeting of G20 countries in Washington DC on 15 November.
10. *Sinar Harapan* carries a photograph showing Australian House of Representative Speaker Harry Jenkins meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Jakarta on Tuesday.

11. (*Berita Sore*) The ongoing visit by Australian parliamentary delegation led by Harry Jenkins would end misunderstandings in bilateral issues and open new opportunities for new inter-parliamentary cooperation between the two countries, Samsu Rizal of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra said.
12. *Kompas* carries a photograph showing three Dayak dancers after performing a dance to welcome the visiting Australian parliamentary delegation in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, on Wednesday.

□ No. 216

□ Friday, 07 November 2008

Parliamentary visit (*Banjarmasin Post-online*, 6/11/08, *Antara*, 6/11/08)

13. (*Banjarmasin Post-online*) Visiting Australian parliamentary delegation pledged to help Central Kalimantan attract investors from Australia, considering that the province's investment security was very conducive, leader of the Australian parliamentary delegation, Harry Jenkins, said after meeting with Central Kalimantan Governor Agustin Teras Narang in Palangkaraya on Wednesday.
14. (*Antara*) Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer, welcomed the visit by an Australian Parliamentary delegation to Indonesia this week as part of regular official exchanges between the two countries' parliaments. "The visit is part of the deepening interaction between our two democracies," Farmer said.

Monday, 10 November 2008

Parliamentary visit (*Sinar Harapan*, 8/11/08, p7, *Kalteng Pos*, 8/11/08, p21)

15. (*Sinar Harapan*) Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer, said the visit by an Australian Parliamentary delegation to Indonesia recently was part of the deepening interaction between our two democracies. The last Indonesian parliamentary delegation to Australia in August 2007 experienced the lead-up to our national elections later that year. So too this Australian delegation is seeing Indonesian democracy with all its vibrancy and openness leading up to the 2009 elections, said Farmer.
16. (*Kalteng Pos*) Australian Parliamentary delegation leader Harry Jenkins officially opened State Junior High School 5 Katingan Hilir, Central Kalimantan, on Friday. He said that school, which construction was financed by the Australian government, would forge a sister school relationship with an Australian school. The report includes two pictures.

Parliamentary visit (*Palangka Post*, 8/11/08, p19, *Dayak Pos*, 8/11/08, 14, *Indosiar*, 10/11/08)

17. (*Palangka Post*, *Dayak Pos*) Australian Parliamentary delegation leader Harry Jenkins officially opened the State Junior High School 5 Katingan Hilir, Central Kalimantan, on Friday, which was constructed using funding from the Australian government. Both reports include a picture.
18. (*Indosiar*) President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono last week received the Australian Parliamentary delegation led by Harry Jenkins, who was accompanied by Australian Ambassador Bill Farmer and People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Speaker Hidayat Nur Wahid.

Parliamentary delegation (*Radio CVC*, 10/11/08)

19. Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Bill Farmer, welcomed the visit by an Australian Parliamentary delegation to Indonesia this week as part of regular official exchanges between our two parliaments. Farmer said the visit was part of the deepening interaction between our two democracies.

Parliamentary visit (*TVRI*, 11/11/08)

20. *TVRI* aired a report about the Australian parliamentary delegation's visit to Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, to see the rare animal conservation project and visit to the orangutan conservation area in the province. The visit was part of series of aid to help the province's program to conserve the lives of orangutan and rehabilitate the peat moss land.

5 Kewarganya sudah stand-by Di Nusakambangan

Wasiat Bomber Bali Belum Dibuka

BARA korban bom Bali menanti harap-harap cemas keprihatinan. Artozi C. akan ditakutkan. Tapi sampai tadi malam, kepastian belum ada. Mungkin memang sengaja dirahasiakan.

Yang jelas, dua helikopter milik Mabes Polri, kemarin sudah mendarat di Permukiman Nusakambangan, Cilacap, Jawa Tengah. "Siar itu kedua heli tersebut sudah berada di dekat LP Per-

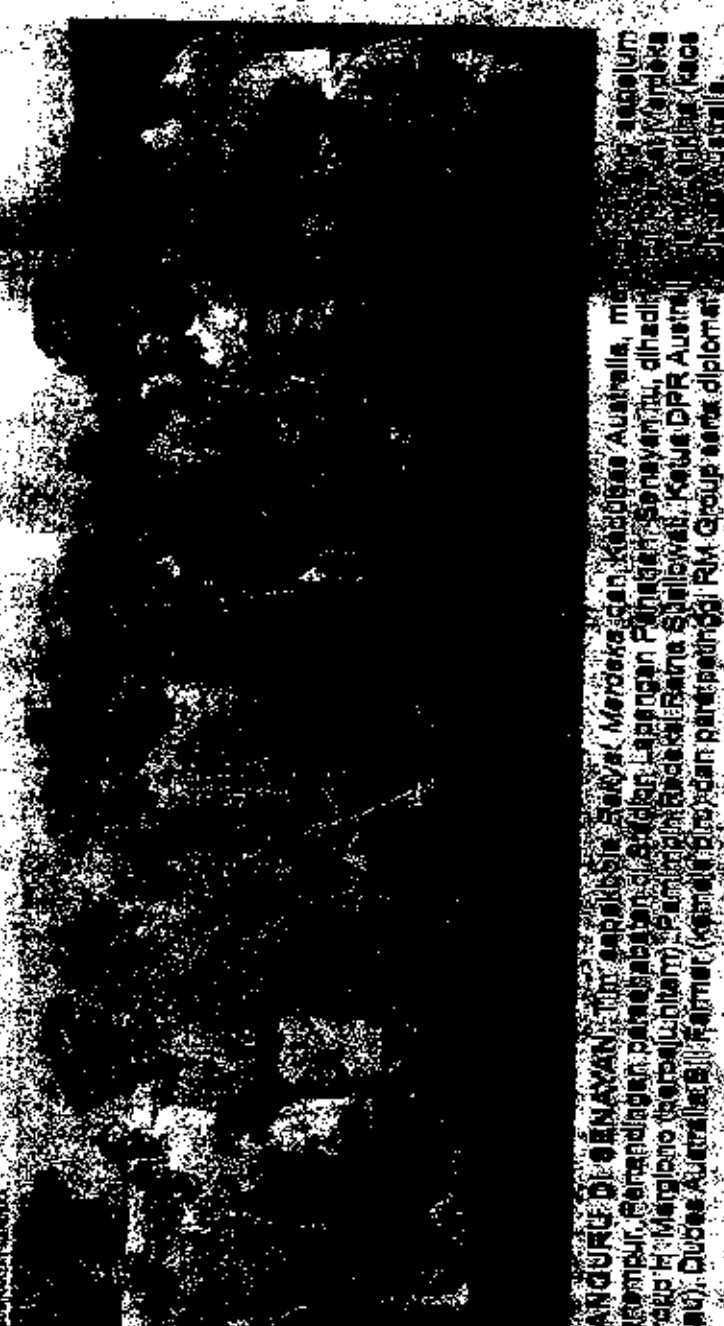
misasi, tetapi salah seorang staf di visi intel Polri Cilacap. Kemudian Helikopter tiba di Nusakambangan. Kemarin, salah satu dari Semarang, Korpapanya, belum siapakan untuk membawa nazar, Amozal C. beserta kerabatnya.

Di Bandara Juanda, Wailung Cilacap juga ada sejumlah heli lagi dari Balda Jawa Tengah. Heli tersebut akan digunakan untuk pengamanan dan

perluasan pengamanan. Perkembangan lainnya, kesuksesannya keserta pengacara Nusakamban.

Pihak keluarga Samudra menyatakan Adik kandung Imam Samudra, Abu Jamaluddin, menyatakan bahwa Imam sudah

MEMANG KEMBALI



KANGURU DI SENAYAN. Tim pembekalan Rakyat Merdeka dan Kadivus Australia, mendampingi. Berpedal pada semangat di Stadion Lapangan Pangeran Senayan, dihadiri Group H. Mangiono (berjas hitam), Permis (berkacamata), Rano Sulloway, Ketua DPR Australia (hijau), Dubes Australia Bill Palmer (karnal) beserta rombongan paripadi. PM Group serta diplomat

Diplomasi Bola Ala Negeri Kanguru

Jakarta, RM. Tidak seperti biasanya, kunjungan delegasi anggota parlemen dari Australia kali ini tidak diebarkan ke media massa. Namun, beruntung *Rakyat Merdeka* mendapat kebetulan untuk bertemu dengan para delegasi parlemen Negeri Kanguru yang di pimpin Ketua DPR Harry Jenkins.

Jenkins dan rombongan ini ke mana saja, itu tidak dapat dikatakan perundingan sepak bola antara klub-klub swasta. Rakyat Merdeka melawat ke Gedung Besar Australia, Dihibur Australia Bill Palmer yang ikut menyaksikan pertandingan yang berlangsung di lapangan Senayan, Senayan.

Terkait dengan kunjungan ini, Ketua DPR Harry Jenkins mengatakan bahwa para delegasi parlemen Negeri Kanguru akan berada di Indonesia selama satu minggu.

MEMANG KEMBALI

Diplomasi Bola Ala Negeri

.... DARI HALAMAN 1

minggu. Ikut pula mendampingi Pensehat Utama Parlemen Chinis Paterson dan Sekretaris Delegasi hubungan parlementer Vivienne Courto. Mereka mendarat di Jakarta, sejak Sabtu (1/10).

Menurut Jenkins, kedatangan mereka ke Indonesia untuk mempererat hubungan kerja sama antara Indonesia dan Australia yang semakin mesra. "Kunjungan ini sangat penting untuk melanjutkan hubungan baik kedua pemerintahan dan kerja sama antar-parlemen kedua negara yang telah berjalan selama ini," ucap Jenkins kepada *Rakyat Merdeka* di sela-sela pertandingan bola.

Dalam pertandingan tersebut, Jenkins melakukan *kick off* sebagai tanda pertandingan dimulai. Jenkins tampak semangat dan senang menyaksikan pertandingan itu sampai selesai.

"Kami melihat bahwa hubungan antara Indonesia dengan Australia di masa kepemimpinan Perdana Menteri Rudd, semakin kuat," ucap Jenkins. Dia menolak mengomentari nasib para teroris kasus bom Bali, yaitu Imam Samudra, Anrozi dan Mochlis, yang kini menghadapi detik-detik eksekusi mati itu.

Rangkaian kegiatan anggota delegasi parlemen Australia selama di Indonesia lumayan padat. Kata dia, antara lain bertemu para pejabat tinggi negara dan politisi Senayan. Yaitu Wapres Jusuf Kalla, Ketua DPR Agung Laksono, Ketua MPR Hidayat Nurwahid dan Ketua DPD Ginandjar Kartasasmita.

Selain ke Jakarta, politisi dari Partai

Beruit itu mengatakan akan terbang ke Kalimantan untuk melihat perkembangan sejumlah proyek antara lain pembangunan sekolah yang disponsori Negeri Kanguru melalui AUSAID (Australia Government Overseas Aid Program).

Pada kesempatan itu, Jenkins juga tampak sangat menikmati pertandingan bola yang diikuti arak bukitnya dan pertandingan, yaitu Shayne Neumann. Menurutnya, pertandingan sepakbola pemahaban antara media massa dan Kedutaan, merupakan jembatan yang baik untuk mempererat hubungan kedua negara.

Dubes Bill Farmer yang ikut menyaksikan pertandingan itu menambahkan, "diplomasi" lewat olahraga seperti pertandingan sepakbola ini, sangat bagus. "Kami sangat menikmati pertandingan ini. Menurut saya, menggelar pertandingan sepakbola bersama media massa, itu biasa menyenangkan," ucap Farmer kepada *Rakyat Merdeka*.

Usai pertandingan yang dimenangkan tim *Rakyat Merdeka* dengan skor 4-3, kedua tim saling bertukar cindera mata. Bill Farmer dan Harry Jenkins menerima jaket bertuliskan *Rakyat Merdeka*. Jaket itu langsung diberikan oleh Direktur Utama *Rakyat Merdeka* Marigono. Sedangkan, dari pihak Australia, ada cinderamata berupa pin kanguru dan lambang hendra dua negara serta boneka kanguru yang besar.

"Pertandingan persahabatan sepakbola jadi sarana yang baik untuk meningkatkan hubungan diplomatik kedua negara," ucap Farmer yang didampingi

Nyonya Farmer. ■ TRS/MUF

Setan Kobar Ngebom Kanguru



Ditua Rakyat Merdeka Group H Margiono (kiri) mengenalkan Jakarta kepada para ahli untuk Indonesia Bill Farmer.

KRISTIAN, AS, N. Rakyat Merdeka ke-suksesannya adalah tim Kerdunan Pesat (Kedubes) yang dia dengan skor tim 4-3 dalam pertandingan persahabatan yang diselenggarakan di lapangan Panahan Sentayan, Nicara, kemarin. Empat gol yang Merdeka dapatkan oleh Agila Mene, Erwin dan Fanyu. Sedangkan gol Australia dituliskan oleh Mark dan Rodland Fambun.

Untuk pertandingan yang digelar di Sentayan, Nicara, kemarin, tim Kerdunan Pesat (Kedubes) yang dia dengan skor tim 4-3 dalam pertandingan persahabatan yang diselenggarakan di lapangan Panahan Sentayan, Nicara, kemarin. Empat gol yang Merdeka dapatkan oleh Agila Mene, Erwin dan Fanyu. Sedangkan gol Australia dituliskan oleh Mark dan Rodland Fambun.

itu dengan skor tipis 4-3.

Sebelum pertandingan, Farmer dan Harry Jenkin membacakan ucapan selamat kepada para pemain Rakyat Merdeka. Atas kemenangannya tersebut, Tim Rakyat Merdeka berhak membawa pulang trophy berupa piala dan kembang-kembang bunga ke Kanguru yang kemarin langsung diserahkan oleh Harry Jenkin sendiri kepada Margiono. Rakyat Merdeka juga memberikan kenang-kenangan berupa jaket hitam dan souvenir gelas ber-tuliskan Rakyat Merdeka kepada mereka. ■ WUR.



Keselamatan saat pertandingan Kanguru antara tim Kanguru dan tim Australia. Rakyat Merdeka sebagai juara.

itu apa yang membuat kaos keselamatan berwarna kuning itu menjadi populer.

Ada beberapa pemain yang tampil baru pada menit ke-20 mereka mampu mencetak gol tunggal 1-0 membuat tim Australia terus-menerus mencari gol. Pemain yang kemarin juga dia untuk memimpin Ummu Margiono (Kerdunan) dan Margiono (Kerdunan) Dewa yang ditugaskan sebagai kandas dan dandanya araban oleh tim setan Kerdunan yang telah menang dengan skor 4-3 membuat tim Kerdunan menang dengan skor 4-3.

Tim Kerdunan yang dipimpin oleh Margiono dan Margiono (Kerdunan) Dewa yang ditugaskan sebagai kandas dan dandanya araban oleh tim setan Kerdunan yang telah menang dengan skor 4-3 membuat tim Kerdunan menang dengan skor 4-3.

Keselamatan saat pertandingan Kanguru antara tim Kanguru dan tim Australia. Rakyat Merdeka sebagai juara.



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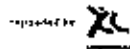


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Bertemu Parlemen Australia, Hidayat Tanyakan "Travel Warning"



Artikel Terkait:

- R Working WNI di Pakisan
- Dipantau Kunjungan Wisatawan Amerika Negeri
- Seluruh 8 Tarian AS Cegah Travel Warning ke Indonesia
- DPR: Jangan Kekalkan Travel Warning

SENIN, 3 NOVEMBER 2008 | 11:19 WIB

JAKARTA, SENIN — Delegasi parlemen Australia mengadakan kunjungan ke parlemen Indonesia, Senin (3/11). Delegasi yang dipimpin Harry Jenkins, MP itu menemui Ketua DPR Hidayat Nur Wahid, dijumpai dengan menemani Ketua DPR Agung Laksono, dan saat itu dijadwalkan akan bertemu Ketua DPD Gandjar Kartasaputra.

Parlemen Melayu dan delegasi parlemen Australia berlangsung sekitar satu jam. Dalam pertemuan tersebut,

hidayat mengenai travel warning atau larangan perjalanan ke Indonesia yang dikeluarkan Pemerintah Australia. Katanya, larangan tersebut dikeluarkan menyusul akan dilaksanakannya terdapat mata tosu bom Bali, Amrozi dan

"Kami menyampaikan bahwa ini [travel warning] membuat tidak nyaman hubungan Indonesia dan Australia, apakah-cukup Australia bisa meningkatkan kemampuan Indonesia untuk menghadirkan keamanan bagi orang-orang yang datang ke sini," kata Hidayat. Hidayat meminta kamu kotornalannya di Lantai II, Gedung DPR, Senen (3/11).

Pinak parlemen Australia pun diminta untuk menyampaikan hasil pemecatan dengan DPR terkait travel warning yang dikeluarkan dua hari lalu. "Delegasi (parlemen Australia) mengatakan, bisa memahami dan akan menyampaikan ke pemerintah, meskipun rakyat Australia ternyata seap saja berkunjung ke Indonesia meskipun ada larangan," kata dia.

Pemotan larangan berkunjung yang dikeluarkan Pemerintah Australia untuk kesekian kalinya, menurut Hidayat, harus menjadi Pemantauan Indonesia meningkatkan rasa percaya dirinya dalam berkomunikasi dengan negara-negara yang kerap mengeluarkan larangan tersebut, seperti Australia dan Amerika Serikat.

Ingrid Dwi Widhiawaty

Seni from my BlackBerry © Wireless device from XL GPRS/EDGE/3G network.



Beri Rating Artikel: [Rating icons]

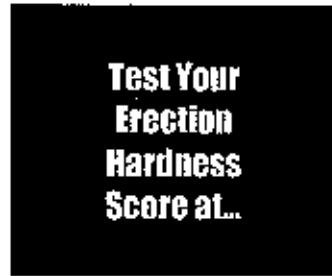
Ade 2 Komentar Untuk Artikel Ini. Posting Komentar Anda

Ade @ Senin, 3 November 2008 | 12:30 WIB

Travel warning dalam bentuk larangan perjalanan bagi perjalanan perjalanan (perjalanan) atau bisa dengan terjemahannya. Untuk warga Australia itu sih biasa, sebagai Pemantauan untuk melindungi warganya. Kalau Travel warning diartikan sebagai larangan perjalanan berarti kalau ada warganya yang melanggar larangan itu akan dikriminalkan atau akan dikenakan sanksi dengan Travel warning itu.

Jakarta @ Senin, 3 November 2008 | 12:06 WIB

walaupun jadi Melayu yang sempat sekarang ya amrozi dan ada maulana di anak. dan sudahlah negara lain lah yang ya ya ya ada sendiri aja ngga yakin apalagi negara lain



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03/11/08 12:20

DPR: Pertemuan Dengan Jenkins Tak Bicarakan Amrozi

Jakarta, (ANTARA News) - Ketua DPR Agung Laksono mengatakan, pertemuannya dengan Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins tidak secara khusus membicarakan persoalan rencana eksekusi terpidana mati kasus Bom bali, Amrozi Cs, tetapi lebih pada upaya meningkatkan hubungan kedua negara.

"Tadi (pembicaraan.red) lebih kepada upaya memelihara hubungan baik kedua pemerintahan dan kedua parlemen," katanya usai pertemuannya dengan Harry Jenkins di Gedung DPR/MPR Jakarta, Senin.

Ia mengatakan, tidak ada pembicaraan mengenai rencana eksekusi terhadap Amrozi CS tetapi memang sempat terungkap mengenai perasaan Australia terkait tindakan hukum kepada terpidana

kasus-kasus terorisme Indonesia.

"Soal tindakan terhadap beragam aksi terorisme di Indonesia, Australia menyatakan cukup puas," katanya.

Menurut dia, Australia bukan saja puas pada pemerintahan saat ini tetapi juga pemerintahan sebelumnya. Hal itu tidak secara spesifik ditekankan karena Australia menyadari bahwa tindakan hukum pada pelaku terorisme sepenuhnya menjadi kewenangan pemerintah Indonesia.

Ketika ditanya apakah kunjungan Jenkins itu memberi sinyal agar Indonesia segera mengeksekusi Amrozi Cs, Agung membantah hal itu tersebut. "Sama sekali tidak ada mengenai hal itu," katanya.

Ia mengatakan, pertemuannya lebih banyak pada pembicaraan mengenai pemilu di Indonesia, bukan pada soal aksi-aksi terorisme.


"Australia memberi perhatian kepada Pemilu Indonesia dan diharapkan Indonesia mampu melaksanakan pemilu secara sukses," katanya.




Parlemen Australia menyatakan keinginannya untuk meningkatkan kerjasama dengan DPR dan ingin meningkatkan hubungan kedua pemerintahan. Parlemen Australia mengundang DPR untuk berkunjung ke negaranya.





Sementara itu, Jenkins tidak memberi kesempatan kepada pers untuk melakukan wawancara dan langsung bergegas meninggalkan Gedung DPR.

Ia langsung memasuki lift tatkala wartawan menanyakan soal kebijakan pemerintah Australia menerbitkan "travel warning" yang melarang warganya berkunjung ke Indonesia. (*)

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KETUA DPR TERIMA DELEGASI PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA DAN PARLEMEN CINA

Tanggal : 03 Nov 2008
Sumber : dpr.go.id

dpr.go.id, Ketua DPR RI Agung Laksono akan menerima delegasi Parlemen Australia yang dipimpin langsung oleh Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins, Senin (3/11) PKL 10.30 di Ruang Tamu Ketua DPR RI Lt 3 Gedung Nusantara III DPR RI. Sementara itu pada hari yang sama pkl. 19.00 Ketua DPR juga akan menerima Delegasi Parlemen Cina yang dipimpin Zhou Yongkeng di Ruang Lotus Hotel Shangri-La.

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November 03, 2008

Ketua DPR DPR Yerima Ketua Parlemen Australia

Jakarta, (tvOne)

Ketua DPR RI Agung Laksono menerima kunjungan Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins di Gedung DPR/MPR Jakarta, Senin. Pertemuan dimulai sekitar pukul 10.30 WIB setelah sebelumnya Harry Jenkins bertemu dengan Ketua MPR Muryati Nuzulita di lantai V Gedung Nusantara III DPR/MPR.

Dalam pertemuan tersebut, Agung Laksono didampingi antara lain anggota Komisi I Simon Patrice Marini. Sedangkan Jenkins antara lain didampingi sejumlah pejabat Kedubes Australia untuk Indonesia.

Pertemuan diakhiri tertutup dan belum diperoleh keterangan mengenai materi pembicaraan kedua pejabat tersebut.

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07/08/08

News

Parlemen Australia Puas Indonesia Eksekusi Amrozi Cs

Senin, 3 November 2008 12:26 wib
Marsinah - Okezone

Print Size E B

JAKARTA - Gestah melarikan pertemuan dengan Ketua DPR Inggris Iain Ramsay, Parlemen Australia juga bertemu dengan Ketua OPR Agung Laksono. Dalam pertemuan tersebut, Parlemen Australia mengaku puas terhadap upaya Pemerintah Indonesia dalam penanganan terorisme, termasuk mengeksekusi terpidana masa Amrozi Cs.

"Tidak ada yang senang puas terhadap aksi Pemerintah Indonesia terhadap terorisnya, baik Pemerintah Australia yang dulu maupun sekarang senang puas, termasuk terhadap eksekusi. Walaupun tidak terlihat disaksikan, tapi mereka senang puas," kata Agung Laksono dalam keterangan persnya kepada wartawan di ruang kerjanya di Gedung DPR, Jalan Gajah Mada, Jakarta, Senin (3/11/2008).

Saat ditanyakan apakah dalam kunjungan tersebut, Parlemen Australia meminda eksistensi kepa pelaku Bom Bali Sporekap, Agung mengaku hal tersebut tidak terjadi. Karena menurutnya pertemuan tersebut lebih ditujukan kepada memelihara hubungan baik antara Indonesia dengan Parlemen Australia.

"Semua sekali baik, semua sekali ngga ada," jelasnya.

Rombongan parlemen Negeri Kangguru yang dikepal oleh HE Henry Jenkins juga membolehkan dirinya menjalin hubungan baik antara kedua parlemen negara. Selain itu, mereka juga mengaku senang menjalin dengan pemilu yang akan diselenggarakan di Indonesia, dan mengharapkan agar pemilu dapat dilaksanakan secara sukses dan demokratis.

"Mengingat parahnya begitu banyak, ada 38 partai, termasuk adanya partai lokal di Aceh. Mereka berharap agar sukses," papar Agung.

□

Mereka lanjut Agung, mengakui kedewasaan kehidupan demokrasi di Indonesia. Walaupun menurut mereka tantangan dalam pemilu di Indonesia sangat berat, dikarenakan wayah Indonesia yang terpecah-pecah dengan sekian. (hr)

Berita Terkait: amrozi/

- Amrozi Cs Takkan Permisikan Teroris
- Penangkapan 20 WNA Tak Terkait Eksekusi Amrozi Cs
- Maresa Ditawarkan, TPM Gugat Kejang dan Komnas HAM
- MA, PK Tak Mengumumkan Eksekusi Amrozi Cs
- Folda Jacm Bakal Perkuat Penjagaan di Lamongan
- Pengusir Visa Tak Tanggung Perancangan Kesehatan Koran AS
- Samsi Pendoak Pasarmen Al Islam dideklarkan Amrozi
- TPM dan Keluarga Amrozi Cs Diteak di Pribudhaibongon
- PK Amrozi Cs Hanga B sa Ditakukan Sekat
- Jelang Eksekusi Amrozi Cs Jakarta Sogok Satu

Next

Berita Lain

- 04/11/2008 06:07:17
Tiga Unjuk Rasa Ramilian Jakarta
- 04/11/2008 06:00:11
Deda Yusuf Desak Arung Galombang Dipatenkan
- 04/11/2008 04:02:32
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- 04/11/2008 02:01:34
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NASIONAL
TRAVEL WARNING" MEMBUAT TIDAK NYAMAN HUBUNGAN RI-
AUSTRALIA

Jakarta, 3/11 (ANTARA) - Ketua MPR, Hidayat Nur Wahid mengatakan "travel warning" atau peringatan perjalanan yang dilakukan Australia bagi warganya yang akan berkunjung ke Indonesia, membuat tidak nyaman hubungan kedua negara.

"Pembelakuan 'travel warning' itu membuat tidak nyaman hubungan antara Indonesia dan Australia. Australia seolah tidak percaya kemampuan Indonesia untuk bisa menghadirkan keamanan bagi para pengunjung yang datang ke Indonesia," ujarnya usai menerima Ketua parlemen Australia, Harry Jenkins.

Dalam pertemuan itu, kedua pihak membahas masalah masalah "travel warning" yang diberlakukan Australia bagi warganya yang akan berkunjung ke Indonesia.

Dikatakan Hidayat, seharusnya parlemen Australia berperan dalam meyakinkan Pemerintah Australia untuk mempercayai negara tetangga mereka, termasuk masalah keamanan.

"Menegenai hal tersebut dia (Harry, red) akan menyampaikan ke pemerintahnya, dia melihat masyarakat Australia hanya mendengarkannya, tapi pada prakteknya mereka tetap datang ke Indonesia," kata Hidayat.

Masalah hukuman mati terhadap Amrozi Cs juga menjadi salah satu hal yang dibahas dalam pertemuan tersebut.

Dalam hal ini pihak Australia mempercayakannya pada hukum di Indonesia.

Hidayat mengatakan, pihak Australia yakin Indonesia melakukan segala hal yang dibutuhkan dalam memberantas terorisme.

"Mereka menghormati hukum yang ada di Indonesia, tapi sekali lagi ditegaskan hukum di Indonesia bukan sekedar agar membuat masyarakat asing menjadi senang," kata Hidayat.

Mengenai hukuman mati yang akan diberlakukan itu membuat masyarakat Australia terbelah juga pendapatnya.

"Karena hukum di Australia tidak memberlakukan hukuman mati, namun ada masyarakat Australia yang begitu emosional dan ingin memberlakukan hukuman mati", kata Hidayat.

8/10

(pwp18/rdp01)

(T.PWP18/B/RDP01/C/R016) 03-11-2008 20:18:15

NNNN

NASIONAL

DELEGASI PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA KUNJUNGI DPR DAN MPR

Jakarta, 3/11 (ANTARA) - Sejumlah anggota Parlemen Australia, di Jakarta, Senin, bertemu dengan Ketua MPR Hidayat Nurwahid dan Ketua DPR Agung Laksono.

Dalam pertemuannya dengan Ketua MPR Hidayat Nurwahid, delegasi parlemen Australia yang dipimpin Ketua Parlemen Harry Jenkins membahas beberapa isu seperti masalah "Travel Advisory" dan pemahaman demokrasi melalui pendidikan di Indonesia.

"Kami sampaikan isu 'travel advisory' itu membuat hubungan antara Australia dan Indonesia tidak nyaman. Seolah-olah pemerintah Australia tidak mempercayai keamanan yang dilakukan oleh pemerintah Indonesia," ungkap Hidayat kepada wartawan di Gedung DPR/MPR, Senin.

Lebih lanjut Hidayat menegaskan sebenarnya tidak ada akibat yang dialami pemerintah Indonesia terkait dengan rencana eksekusi Amrozi CS. Hanya saja, pemerintah kurang berkomunikasi dengan pemerintah Australia, sehingga keluar "travel advisory."

"Pemerintah Indonesia harus lebih berani untuk berkomunikasi dengan Pemerintah Australia yang mengeluarkan nasehat perjalanan itu," ungkapnya.

Sementara itu, Ketua DPR Agung Laksono mengungkapkan dalam pertemuannya dengan Parlemen Australia, dirinya menjelaskan bahwa demokrasi di Indonesia berkembang dengan pesat.

Ia menegaskan Pemerintah dan DPR berkomitmen untuk menjaga proses demokrasi demi keutuhan bangsa dan Negara Indonesia.

"Bangsa Indonesia banyak belajar tentang demokrasi dari negara-negara di dunia termasuk Australia. Meski demikian, semua tentunya disesuaikan dengan kebudayaan dan tradisi bangsa Indonesia," tegasnya Agung Laksono.

Terkait dengan masalah demokrasi ini, Agung juga menjelaskan DPR telah menyelesaikan paket perundang-undangan seperti Undang-undang Pemilihan Presiden, yang di dalamnya ada peningkatan jumlah dukungan kepada pemerintah.

5/10

(PWP33/rdp04)

(T.PWP33/C/RDP04/C/R016) 03-11-2008 16:07:03

NNNN

NASIONAL

AGUNG: PERTEMUAN DENGAN JENKINS TAK BICARAKAN AMROZI

Jakarta, 3/11 (ANTARA) - Ketua DPR RI Agung Laksono mengatakan, pertemuannya dengan Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins tidak secara khusus membicarakan persoalan rencana eksekusi terpidana mati kasus Bom Bali, Amrozi Cs, tetapi lebih pada upaya meningkatkan hubungan kedua negara.

"Tadi (pembicaraan.red) lebih kepada upaya memelihara hubungan baik kedua pemerintahan dan kedua parlemen," kata Agung usai pertemuannya dengan Harry Jenkins di Gedung DPR/MPR Jakarta, Senin siang.

Agung mengatakan, tidak ada pembicaraan mengenai rencana eksekusi terhadap Amrozi CS tetapi memang sempat terungkap mengenai perasaan Australia terkait tindakan hukum kepada terpidana kasus-kasus terorisme Indonesia.

"Soal tindakan terhadap beragam aksi terorisme di Indonesia, Australia menyatakan cukup puas," kata Agung.

Menurut dia, Australia bukan saja puas pada pemerintahan saat ini tetapi juga pemerintahan sebelumnya.

Hal itu, lanjut Agung, tidak secara spesifik ditekankan karena Australia menyadari bahwa tindakan hukum pada pelaku terorisme sepenuhnya menjadi kewenangan pemerintah Indonesia.

Ketika ditanya apakah kunjungan Harry Jenkins itu memberi sinyal agar Indonesia segera mengeksekusi Amrozi Cs, Agung membantah hal itu tersebut. "Sama sekali tidak ada mengenai hal itu," katanya.

Agung mengatakan, pertemuannya lebih banyak pada pembicaraan mengenai pemilu di Indonesia, bukan pada soal aksi-aksi terorisme.

"Australia memberi perhatian kepada Pemilu Indonesia dan diharapkan Indonesia mampu melaksanakan pemilu secara sukses," katanya.

Agung mengatakan, demokrasi Indonesia berjalan ke arah kemajuan walaupun menghadapi tantangan yang begitu berat, misalnya wilayah yang luas dan banyaknya pulau.

Di akhir pertemuan, Parlemen Australia menyatakan keinginannya untuk meningkatkan kerjasama dengan DPR RI dan juga ingin meningkatkan hubungan kedua pemerintahan. Dalam kaitan ini, parlemen Australia mengundang pihak DPR RI untuk berkunjung ke negaranya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins tidak memberi kesempatan kepada pers untuk melakukan wawancara dan bergegas meninggalkan Gedung DPR.

Ia langsung memasuki lift tatkala wartawan menanyakan soal kebijakan pemerintah Australia menerbitkan "travel warning" yang melarang warganya berkunjung ke Indonesia.

3

(L.S023*A041/B/D011)

(L.S023*A041/B/D011/D011) 03-11-2008 12:34:54

NNNN

NATIONAL NEWS

HOUSE SPEAKER: BALI I BOMBERS' EXECUTION NOT DISCUSSED WITH JENKINS

Jakarta, Nov. 3 (ANTARA) - House of Representatives (DPR) Speaker Agung Laksono said he and his Australian counterpart, Harry Jenkins, discussed efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries, and not specifically talked about the planned execution of Bali I bombers Amrozi et al.

"Our talks focused on efforts to maintain the sound relations between our governments and parliaments," Laksono said at Parliament Building here on Monday after a meeting with Harry Jenkins.

He said they did not discuss the planned execution of Amrozi et al. However, Jenkins did convey Australia's view on enforcement of the law the cases of convicted terrorists in Indonesia.

"Regarding Indonesia's actions against terrorism, Australia is quite satisfied," Laksono said.

Australia was not only satisfied about the current administration but also the previous one, he said.

However, Australia did not particularly emphasize the issue because the neighboring country realized that enforcing the law against terrorists was fully in the hands of Indonesian authorities, he said.

Laksono said he and Jenkins mainly talked about the upcoming general elections in Indonesia.

"Australia has a great interest in Indonesia's general elections and Indonesia is expected to be able to implement next year's polls successfully," he said.

The Australian House leader had expressed his wish to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries' administrations and parliaments, and invited Indonesian legislators to visit his country, Laksono said.

5

S023

(F001/B/HAJM/14:15/b/f001)

(L.*SYS/B/F001/B/F001) 03-11-2008 14:26:06 NNNN

NATIONAL NEWS

HOUSE SPEAKER MEETS AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART

Jakarta, Nov. 3 (ANTARA) - House of Representatives (DPR) Speaker Agung Laksono received the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives , Harry Jenkins, at Parliament Building here on Monday.

The meeting began at around 10.30 am, after Harry Jenkins had paid a call to People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Chairman Hidayat Nurwahid at the same building.

In the closed-door meeting, Agung Laksono was accompanied by among other a member of the House's Commission I Simon Patrice Morin.

3

S023*A041

(f001/A/HAJM/13:25/c/f001)

(L.*SYS/C/F001/C/F001) 03-11-2008 13:21:27 NNNN

NASIONAL

KETUA DPR TERIMA KETUA PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA

Jakarta, 3/11 (ANTARA) - Ketua DPR RI Agung Laksono menerima kunjungan Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins di Gedung DPR/MPR Jakarta, Senin.

Pertemuan dimulai sekitar pukul 10.30 WIB setelah sebelumnya Harry Jenkins bertemu dengan Ketua MPR Hidayat Nurwahid di lantai V Gedung Nusantara III DPR/MPR.

Dalam pertemuan tersebut, Agung Laksono didampingi antara lain anggota Komisi I Simon Patrice Morin. Sedangkan Jenkins antara lain didampingi sejumlah pejabat Kedubes Australia untuk Indonesia.

Pertemuan dilakukan tertutup dan belum diperoleh keterangan mengenai materi pembicaraan kedua pejabat tersebut.

3

(L.S023*A041/B/Z003)

(L.S023*A041/B/Z003/Z003) 03-11-2008 11:11:01

NNNN



Australian Embassy

Public Affairs Section

Jl. HR Rasuna Said Kav C 15-16

Jakarta 12940, Indonesia

Telp. (62.21) 2550.5555 Fax.(62.21)522.7105

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Sinar Harapan

Date : 4/11/08
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Circulation : 87,000



SADon Peter

KUNJUNGAN PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA- Ketua DPR Agung Laksono (kanan) menerima kunjungan Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins di Gedung DPR/MPR, Jakarta, Senin (3/11). Kunjungan tersebut di antaranya membahas *travel warning* oleh pemerintah Australia terkait akan dilakukan eksekusi mati terhadap Amrozi dkk.



Australian Embassy Public Affairs Section

Jl. HR Rasuna Said Kav.C 15-16
Jakarta 12940, Indonesia
Telp. (62.21) 2550.5555 Fax.(62.21)522.7105

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Date : 9/11/08
Page : 2
Section :
Region : National
Circulation : 179,000



SP/08/11/08

TERIMA KETUA PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA – Ketua DPR Agung Luksono (kanan), menerima kunjungan kerja Ketua Delegasi Parlemen Australia, Harry Jenkins, di Gedung MPR/DPR, Senayan, Jakarta, Senin (8/11). Pertemuan tersebut membahas masalah hubungan bilateral kedua negara dan larangan perjalanan terkait rencana eksekusi Amrozi cs.



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Tenany Saja, Amrozi Cs Pasti Ditembak Mati

Pengumuman Eksekusi Amrozi Cs Bikin Orang Gelisah

Tenang Saja, Amrozi Cs
... DI HALAMAN 1

Duaini tak mau ngomong siapa eksekusi jadi eksekusi dan pengumuman eksekusi hal itu.

Ketika tak ada pernyataan resmi, namun begitu banyak rencana untuk Amrozi dihukum. Masyarakat diminta tenang saja karena menurut Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (KPK) dan Amrozi Cs pasti akan ditembak mati. "Eksekusi Amrozi tidak akan diunda-unda lagi," ujar jurman di Kelangka, Komawi.

Ditanggapi jurman Kelangka yang khawatir akan ditambatkan soal Noverber. Alasannya, pertanggungjawaban Noverber. Berawal sebelum tanggal 13 November 2003.

"Sebelum dilaksanakan eksekusi, tidak ada pernyataan dari Kejaksaan. Keputusan bilangan adalah men-berikan penitensiensi, pelaksanaan," terang jurman Kelangka Amrozi Cs. Alasan mengapa tak ada sindikasi, Amrozi Cs pasti akan ditembak mati. "Eksekusi Amrozi tidak akan diunda-unda lagi," ujar jurman di Kelangka, Komawi.

Ditanggapi jurman Kelangka yang khawatir akan ditambatkan soal Noverber. Alasannya, pertanggungjawaban Noverber. Berawal sebelum tanggal 13 November 2003.

menjadi bagian dan pemerintah. Berarti, tenany pasti akan ditembak mati. "Amrozi Cs pasti akan ditembak mati," ujar jurman di Kelangka, Komawi.

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Amrozi Cs pasti akan ditembak mati. "Eksekusi Amrozi tidak akan diunda-unda lagi," ujar jurman di Kelangka, Komawi.

"MARI ini tidak ada ketenangan dan 'ya' yang berdamas. Kita sebagai warga di rumah Merdeka. Mari dicarai sebagai pernyaman, dia tidak mengaciripak ambiguitas. Tak sampai pernyaman di bawah, hingga dia menanggapi lisan dengan mobil lainnya.

Sama saja dengan Herdiansyah, Xepolis juga begitu. Rendani Bambang Herdiansyah

• BERKAWALAND NE TIAL 3

Thap bertemu Herdiansyah Supandi, wartawan pasti bertanya kapan Amrozi Cs ditembak mati. Kewenangan ditanya soal ini, maka Agung jadi bosan. Makanya karnas, dia memang mengantarikan pernyataan. Alhasil, wartawan malah melihat pameratan.

Amrozi Cs pasti akan ditembak mati. "Eksekusi Amrozi tidak akan diunda-unda lagi," ujar jurman di Kelangka, Komawi.

Amrozi Cs pasti akan ditembak mati. "Eksekusi Amrozi tidak akan diunda-unda lagi," ujar jurman di Kelangka, Komawi.

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Cari

Rabu, 05 Nopember 2008 16:23 wib

Aussie- RI Memperkukuh Hubungan Antarparlemen

Duta Besar Australia untuk Indonesia, Bill Farmer, menyambut baik kunjungan delegasi Parlemen Australia ke Indonesia minggu ini sebagai bagian dari pertukaran kunjungan resmi yang reguler antara dua parlemen kita.

"Kunjungan tersebut merupakan bagian dari interaksi yang semakin mendalam antara dua demokrasi kita," ujar Farmer.

"Kunjungan terakhir delegasi parlemen Indonesia ke Australia pada Agustus 2007 memperoleh pengalaman tentang persiapan pemilihan umum nasional kami yang berlangsung pada akhir tahun tersebut. Demikian juga delegasi Australia ini menyaksikan demokrasi Indonesia dengan segala dinamika dan keterbukaan menyongsong pemilihan umum 2009," tutur Farmer.

Delegasi Parlemen Australia, yang dipimpin oleh Ketua Parlemen, Harry Jenkins, melakukan sejumlah pertemuan di Jakarta termasuk dengan Ketua MPR, DPR dan DPD dan anggota parlemen Indonesia lainnya.

Kemarin delegasi Parlemen Australia diterima oleh Presiden Susilo Bambang

Yudhoyono dan, dalam pertemuan terpisah, oleh Wakil Presiden Jusuf Kalla.

Farmer menambahkan selama kunjungan, delegasi parlemen Australia menyaksikan secara langsung karya lingkungan hidup dan pendidikan yang Australia dan Indonesia lakukan bersama-sama. "Guna membantu perlindungan lingkungan hidup, kedua negara kita telah mendirikan Kemitraan Karbon Hutan untuk mengurangi emisi dari kerusakan hutan."

"Australia juga membangun dua ribu sekolah di berbagai daerah di Indonesia guna meningkatkan pendidikan," ujar Farmer.(mbs)

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NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT RECEIVES CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE

Jakarta, Nov 4 (ANTARA) - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono received member of the politburo of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Zhou Yongkang, at his office, here on Tuesday.

In the meeting that lasted for an hour the two reaffirmed the two countries' commitment to increasing strategic cooperation, presidential spokesman Dino Pati Djalal said.

They had also expressed optimism that the target of trade between the two countries set at US\$30 billion would be achieved.

"The president has expressed his satisfaction over the increasing trade that has become the two countries' common target," he said.

President Yudhoyono on the occasion also expressed Indonesia's commitment to increasing cooperation with China in the fields of energy, food and infrastructure.

Zhou Yongkang who is secretary of the Chinese Communist Party's legislative commission has been in the country since November 2 at the invitation of the Regional Representatives Council (DPD).

On Tuesday, President Yudhoyono also received a parliamentary delegation from Australia led by Henry Jenkins.

In the meeting with the Australian delegation, the president emphasized the importance of the two countries' relations that also needed support from the two countries' parliaments.

The president also discussed the planned meeting of G20 countries to be held in Washington DC on November 14-15.

"Indonesia and Australia as G20 members will continue to coordinate and cooperate to make the meeting a success," Dino said.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included cooperation between the two countries in forest conservation to support climate change control programs.

D013

(H-YH/B/HAJM/S012)

18:55/....

(T.SYS/B/H-YH/S012) 04-11-2008 19:13:04

NNNN



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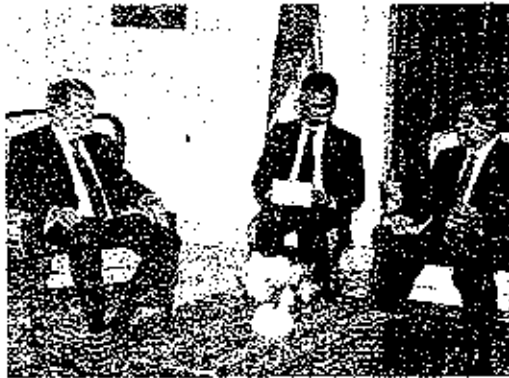
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Sinar Harapan

Date : 5/11/08
Page : 3
Section :
Region : National
Circulation : 87,000



ANJARA

PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA - Presiden Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (kanan) mengadakan pembicaraan dengan Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenking yang menemui Kepala Negara di kantor presiden, Jakarta, Selasa (4/11). Kunjungan Harry bersama delegasi delapan orang dalam rangka meningkatkan hubungan bilateral kedua negara.



Yudhoyono hosts Oz parliament delegation

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (right in the picture) met Tuesday with a delegation of the Australian parliament to discuss cooperation between the two countries on economic and environmental issues.

Presidential spokesman Dino Patti Djalal said the two parties discussed the two countries' preparation for the G-20 conference in Washington DC on Nov. 15.

The Australian delegation was led by parliament speaker Harry Jenkins (left).

"As members of the G-20, Indonesia and Australia will maintain cooperation to make the conference a success. The President said the high-level meeting was crucial to boosting global confidence, especially in the real sector amid the global economic crisis," Dino said.

G-20 comprises finance ministers and central bank governors of important industrial and emerging-market countries throughout the world.

Dino said Yudhoyono had told the Australian delegates about Indonesia's preparations for the United Nations conference on climate change in Poznan, Poland, in December.

"The President said Indonesia and Australia should foster cooperation, including on forest conservation as a concrete model for a partnership between developing and advanced countries in tackling climate change," Dino said.

Indonesia hosted the climate change conference in Bali last December.

— JPD/easy Nirhayati



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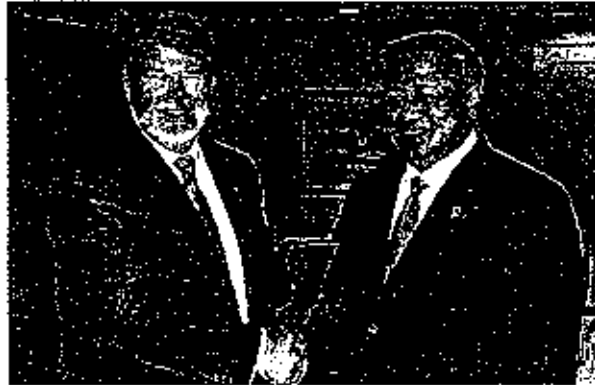
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ANTARA/AGUS ANWAR

PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA: Presiden Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono menerima Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins di Kantor Presiden, Jakarta, kemarin. Kunjungan Jenkins bertujuan meningkatkan hubungan bilateral kedua negara.



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KTT G-20

Presiden Terima Delegasi Parlemen Australia

JAKARTA, KOMPAS — Presiden Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono menerima delegasi Parlemen Australia yang dipimpin Ketua Parlemen Harry Jenkins di Kantor Presiden, Jakarta, Selasa (4/11). Kedua pihak membahas persiapan Konferensi Tingkat Tinggi G-20 di Washington, Amerika Serikat, 15 November 2008.

"Indonesia dan Australia sebagai dua negara anggota G-20 akan berkoordinasi dan bekerja sama menyukseskan pertemuan itu. Presiden menekankan pentingnya upaya pertemuan itu menciptakan *global confidence*, juga agar sektor riil dapat dilindungi dari dampak krisis global yang sedang melanda dunia," ujar Juru Bicara Kepresidenan Dino Patti Djalal usai pertemuan.

Dalam pertemuan itu, Presiden juga menjelaskan posisi Indonesia dan upaya menyukseskan konferensi perubahan iklim di Poznan, Polandia, Desember 2008. Konferensi ini merupakan kelanjutan dari KTT Perubahan Iklim di Bali, Desember 2007.

Presiden juga menekankan hubungan baik dua negara selalu diperkokoh. Kerja sama Indonesia dan Australia dalam pelestarian hutan perlu ditingkatkan. "Kerja sama ini sebagai model kerja sama negara maju dan berkembang yang konstruktif dan konkret dalam rangka mengatasi perubahan iklim," ujar Dino.

Ketika menerima Harry Jenkins, Presiden didampingi Menteri Luar Negeri Hassan Wirajuda, Menteri Sekretaris Negara

Hatta Rajasa, dan Sekretaris Kabinet Sudi Silalahi. Sementara Jenkins didampingi Bronwyn Bisho, Alan Eggleston, Sharon Grierson, Chris Paterson, dan Vivienne Courto.

Sebelumnya, Presiden menerima Anggota Tetap Politbiro Komite Sentral Partai Komunis China yang dipimpin Zhou Yongkang. Saat pertemuan, Zhou didampingi Dubes RRC untuk Indonesia Zhang Qiyue.

Presiden menegaskan kembali pentingnya peningkatan kemitraan strategis kedua negara. Presiden puas dengan peningkatan perdagangan yang mencapai 30 miliar dollar AS. Angka itu merupakan target bersama Presiden dan Presiden China Hu Jintao.

(BN)

NASIONAL

AGUNG BERTEMU PRESIDEN MADAGASKAR

Jakarta, 5/11 (ANTARA) - Ketua DPR RI Agung Laksono menerima kunjungan kenegaraan Presiden Madagaskar Marc Ravalomanana di Gedung DPR/MPR Jakarta, Rabu.

Ravalomanana tiba di gedung parlemen sekitar pukul 15.45 WIB. Karpet merah dibentangkan di lobi Gedung Nusantara III DPR/MPR Jakarta untuk menyambut kedatangannya.

Belum diperoleh keterangan resmi mengenai materi pertemuan tersebut. Namun informasi yang dihimpun menyebutkan, pertemuan diarahkan untuk lebih meningkatkan hubungan dan kerjasama kedua negara.

Sejumlah tamu negara lain yang bertemu Agung Laksono pada pekan ini, antara lain, Ketua Parlemen Australia Harry Jenkins dan Parlemen China yang dipimpin Zhou Yongkeng pada Senin (3/11).

Saat ini DPR RI memasuki masa reses sejak 31 Oktober hingga 23 Oktober 2008. Beberapa UU penting telah disahkan sebelum memasuki masa reses, antara lain UU tentang Pemilihan Presiden dan Wakil Presiden (Pilpres), UU APBN 2009 dan UU tentang Pornografi.

3


(T.S023/B/D011/B/D011) 05-11-2008 16:18:15

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Pertemuan Parlemen Australia-Indonesia Jembatani Kesalahpahaman Persepsi

5 Nopember 2008 | 11:01 WIB

Brisbane (Berita) : Kunjungan delegasi parlemen Australia yang dipimpin Ketua Majelis Rendah, Harry Jenkins, ke Indonesia akan menjembatani kesalahpahaman persepsi mengenai isu-isu yang terkait dengan hubungan bilateral serta membuka peluang kerja sama baru antarparlemen kedua negara.

"Dari kunjungan itu, kita harapkan muncul peluang-peluang kerja sama baru baik dalam kerangka bilateral maupun kerja sama-kerja sama antarpademen di forum internasional," kata Minister Counsellor Fungsi Politik KBRI Canberra, Samsu Rizal, Selasa, menanggapi kunjungan delegasi Parlemen Australia ke Jakarta.

Samsu Rizal mengatakan, rakyat kedua negara tidak dapat mengesampingkan posisi penting parlemen sebagai lembaga tertinggi dalam pengambilan keputusan maupun proses politik. Melalui kunjungan ini, para pemimpin parlemen kedua negara dapat saling bertukar informasi mengenai perkembangan politik terakhir.

"Para aktor politik sendiri dapat menjembatani kesalahpahaman persepsi mengenai isu-isu yang terkait dengan hubungan kedua negara. Diharapkan juga muncul peluang-peluang kerja sama baru dari kunjungan ini," katanya.

Dalam kunjungannya, Ketua Majelis Rendah Australia, Harry Jenkins, Senin, telah bertemu Ketua DPR RI Agung Laksono dan Ketua MPR Hidayat Nurwahid di gedung DPR/MPR-RI Jakarta.

Beberapa isu yang sempat dibahas para pemimpin parlemen kedua negara adalah perihal pembelakuan "peringatan perjalanan" Australia pada Indonesia serta pemahaman demokrasi melalui pendidikan di Indonesia.

Hubungan bilateral Australia-Indonesia kini diperkuat dengan Perjanjian Keamanan yang ditandatangani menteri luar negeri kedua negara di Lombok, Nusa Tenggara Barat, pada 13 November 2006.

Perjanjian yang sudah diratifikasi parlemen kedua negara dan resmi berlaku sejak Februari 2008 itu merupakan landasan kuat bagi peningkatan kerja sama bilateral di bidang pertahanan, penegakan hukum, kontra terorisme, intelijen, keamanan maritim, keselamatan pembangunan dan keamanan pencegahan senjata pemusnah massal.

Selanjutnya di bidang kerjasama darurat, kerjasama dalam organisasi dunia tentang isu-isu keamanan dan kerjasama antarmasyarakat. (ant)

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Rabu, 05 Nopember 2008 16:23 wib

Aussie- RI Memperkukuh Hubungan Antarparlemen

Duta Besar Australia untuk Indonesia, Bill Farmer, menyambut baik kunjungan delegasi Parlemen Australia ke Indonesia minggu ini sebagai bagian dari pertukaran kunjungan resmi yang reguler antara dua parlemen kita.

"Kunjungan tersebut merupakan bagian dari interaksi yang semakin mendalam antara dua demokrasi kita," ujar Farmer.

"Kunjungan terakhir delegasi parlemen Indonesia ke Australia pada Agustus 2007 memperoleh pengalaman tentang persiapan pemilihan umum nasional kami yang berlangsung pada akhir tahun tersebut. Demikian juga delegasi Australia ini menyaksikan demokrasi Indonesia dengan segala dinamika dan keterbukaan menyongsong pemilihan umum 2009," tutur Farmer.

Delegasi Parlemen Australia, yang dipimpin oleh Ketua Parlemen, Harry Jenkins, melakukan sejumlah pertemuan di Jakarta termasuk dengan Ketua MPR, DPR dan DPD dan anggota parlemen Indonesia lainnya.

Kemarin delegasi Parlemen Australia diterima oleh Presiden Susilo Bambang

Yudhoyono dan, dalam pertemuan terpisah, oleh Wakil Presiden Jusuf Kalla.

Farmer menambahkan selama kunjungan, delegasi parlemen Australia menyaksikan secara langsung karya lingkungan hidup dan pendidikan yang Australia dan Indonesia lakukan bersama-sama. "Guna membantu perlindungan lingkungan hidup, kedua negara kita telah mendirikan Kemitraan Karbon Hutan untuk mengurangi emisi dari kerusakan hutan."

"Australia juga membangun dua ribu sekolah di berbagai daerah di Indonesia guna meningkatkan pendidikan," ujar Farmer.(mbs)

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5 Nopember 2008 | 11:01 WIB

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Kompas, 6/11/08, p. 29

Sambut Parlemen Australia



Tiga penari berkostum Dayak bercongol/tertaupa di halaman rumah belalang Mandala Wisata di Palangkaraya, Kalimantan Tengah, selahbis membawakan tarian selamat datang untuk delegasi Parlemen Australia, Rabu (5/11). Penyambutan seperti ini biasanya dilakukan terhadap tamu yang baru pertama kali datang ke Kalteng.

SOEPA/AG/STRIK/ANIS/ANTO SAPTORA/STRIK



Delegasi Parlemen Australia Resmikan SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir

Katingan, Depok Pos
 Pembangunan gedung sekolah SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir atas kerjasama Pemkab Katingan dengan pihak Parlemen Australia, secara resmi diberlakukan, Juni 01 (2011).
 Peresmian itu selain dihadiri Delegasi Parlemen Australia dan Bupati Katingan Drs Onwel Rawung, juga disaksikan Ketua Pendidikan Nasional Kalingan Drs Ilirid Rimpit dan Ketua Pendidikan Nasional Kalimantan Karingan Iliriyadi P. Semul.
 Dalam sambutannya, Ketua Delegasi Parlemen Australia Mr Henry Jenkin mengatakan, pihak Australia dalam penediaan sangat membahayakan pada Negara Indonesia, khususnya di Kabupaten Katingan.
 "Kita sekolah adalah masa paling penting bagi anak-anak, karena saat itulah anak-anak membentuk nilai dan kepribadian dan masa ini juga sangat penting artinya bagi mereka," katanya.
 Menurutnya, delegasi Parlemen Australia memberikan bantuan untuk Indonesia dalam dunia pendidikan pertumbuhannya Rp 3,3 Triliun, dan ini menjadi prioritas utama karena ada dua juta anak yang tidak bersekolah.
 "Di Indonesia, akan dibangun 2.000 sekolah dan sudah dibangun 1.000 dan tahun 2008 hingga 2010, dan 44 sudah dibangun di Kalimantan Tengah," ungkapnya.
 Diakankannya, salah beberapa dari Negara yang baik, karena saling mengabdikan bukan hanya membangun tapi dengan sesama, insipr membangun masyarakat yang harmonis.
 Bupati Katingan Drs Dursel Kawing dalam sambutannya mengatakan, dengan adanya kerjasama dan dukungan baik tetap dilanjutkan dan ditingkatkan.
 "Sekolah yang di bangun dari bantuan dana pihak Australia, agar selalu dipelihara dan digunakan secara maksimal untuk kegiatan belajar mengajar," katanya.
 Dirkas juga Bupati, ada empat unit sekolah yang dibangun di Kabupaten Katingan dengan menggunakan dana pihak Pendidikan Australia sejak 2007 hingga 2008, yaitu SMPN 4 Katingan Talai, Tambang Malibu, SMPN 4 Katingan Tengah di Tambang Labang, SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir di Kota Katingan dan SMPN 1 Katingan Kuala di Sibau Jarah.
 "Terdapat juga kepada Pemerintah Australia dan Katingan SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir yang diresmikan dan kerubandi Australia, pada ini semua akan angka kita meningkatkan hubungan dan kerjasama yang erat, khususnya di lain bidang pendidikan," kata Bupati, (Sen)

Guru Harus S1 atau Minimal D4

Mitayahi Pedalaman Masih Keluwangan Guru



PERESNIAN Peresmian gedung sekolah SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir oleh delegasi Parlemen Australia di Batubusi (Depok Pos)

bila dilalui dan pulih guru dan murid sudah memadai berdasarkan kondisi guru yang kurang.
 "Tetapi itu adalah ben yang ada, tetapi saja mengubah kekurangan kekurangan guru karena semua diarah pedafansan, dibandng dengan yang ada di Bukoba Provinsi, Kabupaten maupun Kota lainnya Kecamatan," katanya.
 Menurutnya, guru memang sangat memadai dalam hal ini tetapi pemerataan atau pemerataan guru yang belum merata, termasuk juga sarana dan prasarana yang baik ini.
 Diungkapkannya, pihak Departemen Pendidikan Nasional menegaskan bahwa pendidikan wajib belajar sembilan tahun baik dari tingkat SD maupun SMP, harus sudah tahun 2009.

"Hal ini yang menjadi program juga, karena ada 5 Kabupaten yang sudah APK (Angka Partisipasi Kasar) tingkat standar Nasional, baik sarana prasarana yang masih kurang-laboratorium, maupun perpustakaan," katanya.
 Menurutnya, pada 2009 dengan anggaran yang ada, pendidikan sembilan tahun akan tahun 2009 ada sebagian Kabupaten lain. Untuk Kota Palu, Palu 8 nya termasuk beberapa Kabupaten yang sudah tingkat wajib belajar di tahun 2009, tetapi di perhelekan melakukan akan wajib belajar 12 tahun. (Sen)

ungkapnya
 Hilir Katingan juga mengungkap, jumlah siswa yang ada di Kabupaten Katingan yang ada di Katingan. Katingan memang lebih mengungkap kasus dan relatif lebih tinggi bank dan tingkat TK, SD, SMP, dan dalam pelaksanaannya, pada tahun anggaran 2009, akan SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir dan akan hasil pulih guru, dan pendididkan sebanyak 20 persen." (Sen)

Katingan, Depok Pos
 Luidings-Luidings tahun 2005
 leumpang Guru dan Dorman, meneng-
 berisikan bersekolahitas S1 atau paling tidak D4. Jika itu adalah untuk meningkatkan standar dan kualitas pendidikan di Kabupaten Katingan Hilir dan Katingan Tengah dan Katingan Kuala di Sibau Jarah.
 Hilir Katingan Hilir dan Katingan Tengah dan Katingan Kuala di Sibau Jarah.
 Hilir Katingan Hilir dan Katingan Tengah dan Katingan Kuala di Sibau Jarah.
 Hilir Katingan Hilir dan Katingan Tengah dan Katingan Kuala di Sibau Jarah.

SMPN 5 Punya Kembaran di Australia

KASONGAN - Para pelajar yang bersekolah di SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir patut berbangga. Pasalnya, sekolah tempat mereka menuntut ilmu ini akan mempunyai kembarnya di Negara Australia. Hal ini diungkapkan oleh Mr Herry Jankins MP Ketua Delegasi Parlemen Australia saat meresmikan bangunan sekolah yang pembangunannya bersumber dari Bantuan Negeri Kangguru, Jumat (7/11).

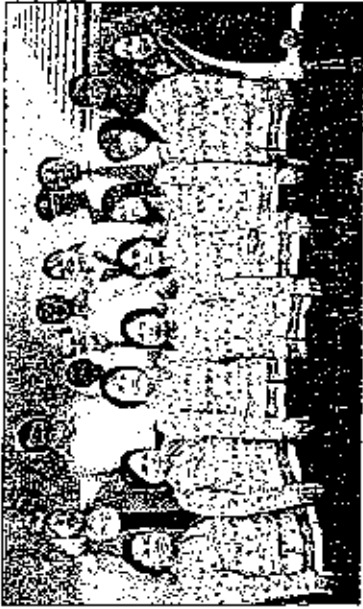
"Sebagaimana diharapkan oleh bupati agar sekolah ini mempunyai kembaran di Australia, sebenarnya kita juga tengah merencanakannya," kata Mr Herry Jankins dalam sambutannya yang diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Indonesia oleh salah seorang pendamping rombongan parlemen Australia ini.

Menurut Herry, Negara Australia mempunyai keperdulian sangat besar terhadap pengembangan dunia pendidikan di Indonesia. Setiap tahunnya pihaknya mengalokasikan dana tak kurang dari Rp 3,5 triliun untuk pembangunan unit-unit sekolah baru di 21 Provinsi.

"Khusus di Provinsi Kalteng ini kami telah membangun 44 unit sekolah baru tingkat sekolah dasar. Program ini akan berlanjut pada 2008 sampai dengan 2009 dengan pembangunan sebanyak 43 unit sekolah baru lagi," ujar Mr Herry yang saat peresmian ini didampingi sebanyak 6 orang lain dari anggota parlemen Australia.

Dalam kesempatan peresmian ini, rombongan Parlemen Australia ini menyampaikan pula menyaksikan Kegiatan Belajar Mengajar di salah satu ruang kelas SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir.

Acara peresmian yang berlangsung sekitar 2 jam ini, dihadiri pula oleh Bupati Katingan Drs Duwel Rawing, Ketua DPRD Katingan H Hadnan A Litang BSc, Wakil Bupati H Surya SH, Kepala Dinas Pendidikan Nasional Provinsi Drs Hardy Rampay dan para unsur Muspida serta para beberapa anggota dewan dan pejabat lingkungan Pemkab Katingan. (ttr)



PARLEMEN AUSTRALIA - Bangunan SMPN 5 Katingan Hilir yang merupakan bantuan dari Australia diresmikan oleh Ketua Parlemen Australia Mr Herry Jankins MP. Tampak Bupati Duwel dan Jankins bersama jajaran Parlemen Australia foto bersama para guru.

KALTENG Pos, Sabtu 8 November 2008