



Submission No 68

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Organisation: School of Modern Language Studies

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Lawson, Cliff (REPS)

From: Cowan, Lesley (REPS)
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2002 10:17 AM
To: Lawson, Cliff (REPS)
Subject: FW: submission for Inquiry into Australia's Relations with
Importance: High

Submission No 68

-----Original Message-----

From: Rochayah Machali [mailto:R.Machali@unsw.edu.au]
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2002 4:19 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Subject: submission for Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia
Importance: High

Submission: Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Committee Secretary, JSCFADT
department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

The teaching of Indonesian language (Bahasa Indonesia) and the studies of Asia are extremely important given Australia's position in the Asia-Pacific region. There has been ample evidence that, for example, since the introduction of the NALSAS strategy, the teaching and position of Bahasa Indonesia as well as of other Asian languages have been significantly enhanced and facilitated. There are many programs in NSW which benefit from this strategy. Through this strategy, consultancy, Indonesian expert, and resources have been made available. In turns, this has increased professional development opportunities, not just at the at a school level, but at the other levels as well.

The school funding for the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia has no doubt helped increased the quality of Indonesian teaching and Indonesian programs in NSW schools. Through cooperation on many occasions with the universities at NSW, especially with UNSW, teachers have been able to develop their language skills and understanding of second language acquisition. On many occasions, UNSW has cooperated with Independent School Association, to mention one, to conduct seminars and workshop for teacher's development.

Through the NALSAS funding, for example, essential resources (audio materials, videos, etc.) have been provided for small schools and schools in isolated areas, which would have been unavailable otherwise. This was a very positive move towards forging a better understanding between the two nations.

Given Australia's position in the Asia-Pacific region, I am sure we share the same opinion that forging relations between the two countries is extremely important. In the wake of what has just happened in Bali, it is even more important for Australia to work together with its neighbour(s), especially in terms, but not exclusively, of environment and security. This is not to mention forging cooperation in areas such as minimising (cultural) conflict, restoring the ecosystem, etc.

The multicultural nature of Australian society necessitates, for example, a proficiency in another (second) language. Through this, Australian young generation learn a lot of things about its neighbour. This is very important considering they are future leaders of the country. Learning about Indonesia has certainly forged the feeling of mutual respect. This is important in any international engagement.

Given Australia's position in the Asia-Pacific region, being Indonesia's closest neighbour, Indonesia will (and should) continue to be a priority for Australia. Therefore, it is of crucial importance that the Australian government ensures that relations between Australia and Indonesia be strengthened, especially after what happened in Bali. Only through a closer cooperation with Indonesia (be it in security matters or other matters) that we can make the world the way we want it to be: in peace.

Thank you.

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