



# Australia Awards Short Course

## Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific

Australia Awards



*Indonesian Ambassador's Dinner, Ambassador's Residence, Canberra*

The 'Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific' Short Course was funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), managed by the Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI), and delivered by The University of Queensland's (UQ) specialist International Development unit (UQID). The short course was conducted between August 2024 and February 2025, with the in-Australia component delivered in October 2024. The Course Designer/Leader was A/Prof **Nicole George**, and the Co-Course Designer/Leader was **Mr Spiro Polycandriotis van Duynhoven**.

The course aimed to foster collaboration and build capability among agencies responsible for Indonesian development cooperation while sharing Australia's whole-of-government approach to building and maintaining effective development partnerships in the Pacific – including the importance of Pacific primacy and 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent in guiding how we work. It provided an opportunity to link participants with senior interlocutors from the Australian Government and build a shared understanding of how effective development assistance can help strengthen Indonesia's diplomatic relationships with Pacific Island countries.

The program also aimed to build participants' understanding of Australia's development program, including how Australian Aid and Development programs are configured and guided by effectiveness and accountability principles and a partnership approach, to enable participants to better navigate future opportunities for trilateral collaboration with Australia. The course also examined Australia's broader strategic objectives and priorities for its aid program. These included the importance of donor coordination, multilateralism, and ambitions to progress Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles, and resilience to climate change in the Pacific region.

### Course Highlights

Highlights of the short course included:

- A networking dinner in Canberra at Old Parliament House, which included a Welcome to the Country and Keynote Speaker and guests from the diplomatic core and government representatives.
- The Indonesian Ambassador gave an invitation to a dinner at his residence to celebrate Indonesia Independence Day, which several diplomats attended, along with representatives from the government, military, and other organisations.
- Site visit to Australia Parliament House, which included a guided tour and the opportunity to attend Question Time in the House of Representatives.
- Field visit to the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) on the Canberra site.
- The experience, expertise and perspectives of the various speakers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) throughout the In-Australia visit.
- The opportunity for the group to meet in person at all key components throughout the short course, including the Pre / Post Course Workshop and In-Australia Visit.

The Short Course included the following components:

- Pre-Course Workshop delivered in Jakarta, Indonesia, at Mercure Hotel Gatot Subroto, South Jakarta (28 –30 August 2024)
- In-Australia Course delivered over two weeks in Brisbane and Sydney (7 – 18 October 2024)
- Online Award Project Mentoring Sessions delivered online (26 September 2024, 9 December 2024 and 30 January 2025)
- Post-Course Workshop UQID delivered in Jakarta, Mercure Hotel Gatot Subroto, South Jakarta (11 – 12 February 2025)



The short course focused on the following learning objectives:

- Build an understanding of Australia's approach to development cooperation and strategic engagement with Pacific Island countries, including through locally-led development and country and regional planning processes
- Build capability in strategic policymaking for international development cooperation
- Build practical knowledge of Australia's development cooperation programs in the Pacific, including program design, engagement with delivery partners, program budgeting and implementation
- Strengthen knowledge of Australia's approach to climate change, gender equality and disability equity and rights in the development program
- Strengthen capacity for monitoring, evaluation and learning for effective development programs and understanding of Australia's approach to transparency and accountability, risk and safeguards for development programs
- Strengthen capability for multistakeholder engagement, including working with government, private sector, academic, think tanks and NGOs
- Build an understanding of Australia's whole of government approach to development cooperation in the region and opportunities for cross-agency collaboration within Indonesian development program agencies
- Identify potential opportunities for Indonesian assistance to support development in the region, including strengthening relations between countries
- Build capability and share knowledge on strategic communication, conveying the value of the development program to domestic constituents and partner countries, including through engagement with media

#### Course Provider

UQ is ranked among the world's top 50 universities and is a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) universities. The University has a world-class track record of delivering practical solutions to complex global challenges, collaborating with partner institutions and industry in areas of national and international importance.

UQID builds the capacity of people and organisations around the world to achieve their development goals. Recognised for excellence through technical leadership, training and capacity building, management, and research, the unit is one of the Indo Pacific's leading university development groups. Since its establishment in 1994, UQID has completed more than 500 projects across 80 countries. The unit has designed and delivered more than 190 tailored short courses for 5000+ participants from South-West Asia, South-East Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Working with a broad range of stakeholders, UQID draws upon the knowledge, expertise and skills of university academics, leading practitioners across Australia, and global experts to rapidly develop and effectively deliver training and capacity-building programs for a range of Australian and international agencies. Our clients include the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the United Nations (UN).

#### Course Participants

The Short Course was delivered to 23 participants, including 14 women and nine men ranging from 29 to 51 years of age. The course was offered to emerging Infrastructure specialists in Indonesia. The cohort was well-balanced, focusing on middle management with strong leadership potential. The most significant returns to the AAI investment tended to be on younger participants, who had strong technical backgrounds and excellent English and had a great thirst and absorptive capacity for new knowledge and experiences. The participants were mid- to senior-level civil servants in their

respective divisions with excellent English skills. They demonstrated an immense willingness to engage with the course content and consider how the lessons learned might influence their day-to-day work beyond their engagement with the Pacific Islands.

#### Pre-course Workshop

From August 28-30, 2024, it provided a basic overview of the course and a broad introduction to key issue areas that would be developed during the course. This workshop was also used to introduce course participants to each other and encourage group formation to create preliminary ideas for their group Award Projects, which they refined throughout the course. Guest presentations included a welcome and overview of 'Australia's approach to development cooperation and strategic engagement with Pacific Island countries'. Opening Remarks were provided by Mr Tormarbulang Lumbantobing, CEO of Indonesian AID, about Indonesian AID's strategy and its Pacific Portfolio. Guest speaker Yovan Rizaldy, Head of the Fund Planning Division, Indonesian AID, delivered a session that aimed to build a participant baseline understanding of Indonesia's development program. A panel session was also conducted by representatives from the Australian Embassy, ADB, EIB and the World Bank, discussing key questions, including 'What are the different organisation's priorities in the Pacific region? Who are the Development Banks main Pacific partners? What financial products/services do they provide, and do they work together in some projects or separately with beneficiary countries?'

#### In-Australia Program

The in-Australia component was held from 7 to 18 October 2024 in Canberra and Sydney and focused on aid and development sustainability, commitments to GEDSI mainstreaming, sustainability in aid and development programming and practical aid and development partnerships through lectures, guest presentations, and site visits. Participants were able to hear presentations from a range of senior aid and development officials from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade engaged in programs delivered within the Pacific Islands region, academics who work in this region, and other aid and development practitioners who had relevant experience. The networking dinner in Canberra at the Old Parliament House was a highlight as participants could network with diplomats, government representatives and guest presenters. The group also visited the Australian Parliament House and attended Question Time and the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research.



*Networking Dinner, Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, Old Parliament House, Canberra*



*Networking Dinner, Old Parliament House, Canberra*





Participants gather at the ACIAR Office, Canberra



The short course group at the Australian Parliament House, Canberra

### Post-course Workshop

The post-course workshop was held in Jakarta from 11 - 12 February 2025. It included two guest presentations, which offered the participants the opportunity to reflect on the course and their Awards Project as well as engage with their peers. The Guest Presenters included Dr Kiri Ingram, School of Political Science and International Studies (UQ), whose session focussed on 'Pacific Islands culture and way of life: A perspective from PNG'. The second Guest presenter was Riley Duke, Research Fellow, Pacific Aid Maps, Lowy Institute, who presented on the Pacific Aid Map. Participants also presented their very well-executed Awards Project, which demonstrated the work they had completed throughout the course and their high level of engagement with the learnings taken from the course sessions.

### Awards Project Highlights

As part of the short course, course participants developed and implemented the Awards Project, which applied what they had learned from the course. Some highlights from successful projects included:

- **Group 7: Topic: Disaster Management by Indonesia and Australia for Indonesian Region.**
  - Objective: Development of Public infrastructure grant assessment guidelines.
  - Implementation: Developed draft guidelines with the view to being feasible to ensure they were not too onerous for potential recipients to complete. Some guidelines also include criteria that focus on the gendered social impacts of projects and their environmental sustainability, as well as criteria that measure the effectiveness of staged funding allocations.
- **Group 6: Topic: Discussion Paper - Promoting GEDSI-Lense: Gender Equality in Indonesia's International Development Cooperation Policy.**
  - Objective: Organise and run a webinar on development aid and effectiveness in the Pacific. Implementation: The team negotiated with STAN faculty to ensure the seminar was integrated into student assessment. A valuable strategy that ensured they had a strong attendance at the workshop of 98 students. The team conducted pre- and post-course learning evaluations and significantly improved participants' understanding of the Pacific aid and development landscape.

### Testimonials

*"The post-course experience fostered stronger bonds and a deeper understanding of Pacific development. I am optimistic about Indonesia becoming a reliable partner for the Pacific and look forward to further collaboration with Australia to address regional challenges."*

*Participant, Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific SC*

*"I better understand Australia's approach to development effectiveness and partnership in the Pacific, including implementing GEDSI."*

*Participant, Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific SC*

*"The exchange of ideas, the delivery of information and knowledge, and the networking established during the course will all benefit my current portfolio."*

*Participant, Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific SC*

*"The exposure to Australia's approaches and best practices has given me new ideas to implement in my work, particularly in partnership models and governance structures."*

*Participant, Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific SC*

*"It's great to have conversations with colleagues who work in the same field about development and get their perspectives. The facilitator is also invaluable in delivering the materials and providing guidance."*

*Participant, Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific SC*

*"It's a great introduction before starting the course. It provides an introduction to the course and an overview of Australia."*

*Participant, Development Effectiveness and Partnerships in the Pacific SC*

### For further info about this program, please contact:

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