Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia Short Term Award

Public Financial Management for Better Policy Outcomes

16 February 2021 – 10 February 2022

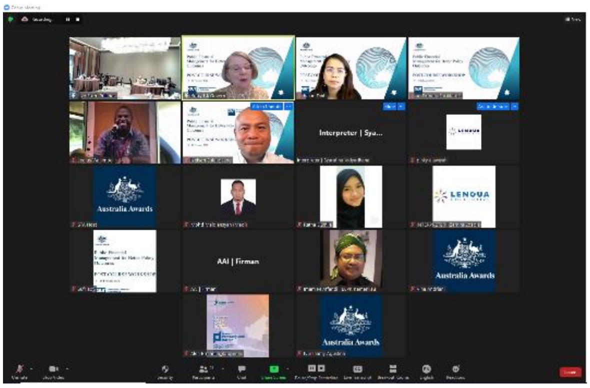
A group of participants received Australia Awards Completion Certificate after completing the Public Financial Management short course.

Course Highlights:

- Pre-Course Workshop (online) on 16-18 February 2021
- Course in Australia (online) 26 August 2021 – 28 October 2021
- Post-Course Workshop (hybrid) 9 February 2022 – 10 February 2022

The Public Financial Management for Better Policy Outcomes Short Term Award provided middle and senior-level government officials with an opportunity to benchmark and explore a range of public financial management practices that underpin policy making in contemporary government practices. These practices include fiscal rules to guide government spending and revenue, expenditure frameworks that capture the long-term impact of policy decisions and performance-based budgeting to inform funding allocations' level and relative priority.

Twenty participants from the Ministry of Finance, BAPPENAS, Ministry of Home Affairs, Provincial and Regional Government, Audit Board and Faculty of Business & Economics successfully completed the course and experienced the individual-driven study on QUT Blackboard for asynchronous sessions and worked in groups in live sessions. They were also engaged in discussions with several guest speakers from Australian counterpart agencies. The course was designed and facilitated by specialists with over 25 years of experience in public financial management in a range of international contexts, including Indonesia and the broader Asia-Pacific region in public financial management, Stephen MacLeod and Kerry McGovern (QUT). Kerry and Stephen have extensive networks in PFM in Australia (including Queensland Treasury, Department of Finance, and Taxation Office and Audit Office). The course also leveraged the expertise of academics such as Associate Professor Vincent Hoang and Peter Townson from QUT Business School, who provided workshops on data analytics in financial management and the use of practical tools for budget management and macroeconomic forecasting.



A screenshot of the participants' attendance at the Public Financial Management, both online and offline in Bogor

The course was designed around the participants' Awards Projects. Real-world scenarios and workplace examples were incorporated to enable participants to link the course material with their workplace practices and Award projects. To achieve training outcomes, the short course offered a structured learning process for participants utilising a range of learning methodologies, such as virtual classroom sessions, case studies, virtual workshops, plenary and group discussions, simulations, role-plays, as well as the in-depth mentoring of the projects. The pre-course online Workshop allowed the Course Leaders to 'meet' the participants and validate the course objectives and participants' requirements prior to refining the focus of the final course.

During the pre-course Workshop, the program was framed within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Indonesia's 2018 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Assessment; the 2020-2024 Medium-Term National Development Plan; the similarities and differences between Indonesian and Australian legal structure and PFM practices, taking into account the implications of decentralisation; and ultimately, the participants' learning objectives and Award Projects. The course was designed around a hypothetical 'typical budget cycle', consisting of four stages: a). budget planning and preparation; b). budget approval; c). budget execution; and d). budget monitoring, evaluation and audit.

After the online course, two mentoring sessions were arranged to assist the participants with the implementation of their Awards Projects. The participants were required to submit their progress reports to identify areas they needed support or advice from the facilitators. Two Zoom sessions were also scheduled to address challenges/barriers as well as provide support to the participants.

"Our focus was also on collaborating with one another and enrolling others in taking responsibility for the Award projects. They are no longer personal projects but will be institutionalised within our agencies at all levels of government".

During post course, the participants were exposed to how to institutionalise change, and two senior alumni from the AAI Risk Management for the Public Sector short course presented the impact of their projects. The participants were asked to focus on the beneficiaries of their projects and how to enroll others to manage their projects through the institution, so it became institutionalised. The participants presented their Awards Project progress, getting comments from others in breakout rooms on zoom and face to face in Bogor. They were able to establish ways to collaborate and strengthen the impact of their projects. Project topics included: *Strengthening Public Policy Coordination in Public Financial Management* and *Financial Advisory Model for Local Governments*.

Testimonials from the course participants:

"There are too many good and useful things I've received from this short course. Differences and similarities in the system of government in managing good finances for policies that benefit the welfare of society. Planning and budgeting based on a good data collection system, is a very good thing. Similarly, there is monitoring and evaluation and good reporting. Good handling of indigenous or indigenous peoples, both Aboriginal and Indigenous Papuans, is a very valuable thing I get in this short course."

"During this course, I have met people who are closely related to my work, both from fellow course participants and from QUT. Through my colleagues, I can obtain the latest information and exchange data and information related to public financial management"

"The mentors help me to solve challenges that I faced and keep my motivation up"

Participants engaged in a discussion on their Award Projects during the Post Course Workshop

A participant received Australia Awards Completion Certificate from QUT representative

In conclusion, the 20 participants successfully completed the course. The projects were deemed strong and have already demonstrated good progress of implementation with emerging changes in the workplace/organisation.

Due to the increase of the Omicron variant through Australia and Indonesia, the two-day Post-Course on 9 – 10 February 2022 was organised in a hybrid mode: 7 participants attended in person at Pullman Hotel in Bogor,13 participants plus QUT delivery team participated virtually. In doing so, the workshop maximised the opportunities for participants to collaborate to strengthen their ability to institutionalise and socialise their projects.

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