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SUCCESS STORY

The Supreme Court Introduces Pilot Training on Case Flow Management



H. Atja Sondjaja, SH (right), Deputy Chief Justice for Civil Cases of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, discusses court case management practices with district court judges.

The Supreme Court of Indonesia has clear goals for improving the capacity, integrity and technical legal competence of Indonesian judges, and has launched an innovative Continuing Judicial Education Program (CJE II) to meet the needs of judges with 6 to 15 years of experience. These judges have considerable practical knowledge but often find it difficult to obtain information about successful judicial practices used by their peers in other countries.

Using an analysis of judicial training needs done by the USAID Changes for Justice (C4J) project, the Supreme Court requested courses on case flow management, judicial ethics, and quality of judgment. All three courses are being run on a pilot basis in 2011 and will be expanded to more courts in 2012.

The case flow management course was held June 27-30, 2011 at the Supreme Court training center at Ciawi, West Java. Developed by a team of legal experts with support from the C4J project, topics focused on the needs of general courts. These included improved monitoring of cases, notice, backlog reduction, effective coordination among judges and court staff, and courtroom management.

The course structure allowed judge participants to share their perspectives on improving case management. According to Hj. Nirwana, SH MH, a Central Jakarta District Court judge, “[the content] is very inspiring, opening our eyes to how problems occur, and how to come up with solutions.” Nineteen male and two female judges from courts in Jakarta, Bekasi, Bandung, Serang and Pandeglang completed the course. The feedback from the participants is being used to improve the course content before it is rolled out by the Supreme Court during 2012. The same process will be followed for the courses on Quality of Judgments and Judicial Ethics.

The C4J Project is a four-year project funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and implemented by Chemonics International. From May 2010 through May 2014, the project is cooperating with the Supreme Court and Attorney General’s Office of the Republic of Indonesia to increase transparency and accountability in the Indonesian justice system. For more information on C4J, please contact the Contracting Officer’s Representative Mr. Dondy Sentya, USAID Senior Rule of Law Specialist at dsentya@usaid.gov, or info@chemonics.com, or www.c4j-indonesia.org