



SUCCESS STORY

Laying Groundwork for Professional Court Registrars

Candidate Acting Registrar Education (CARE) Program is being developed to prepare knowledge and skill required of acting registrars.



Photo above: Public at the Jantho Religious Court, Aceh, filling out the training needs assessment. A training needs assessment for CARE program was conducted in six provinces. Judges, registrars, and justice seekers responded to a list of questions to help gauge the training needs of acting registrars.

“Although adapted from Continuing Judicial Education program, the proposed training method is specifically designed for acting registrars. In this program, acting registrars will also be equipped with materials on court language and code of conduct”

***DR. Abdullah,
Section Head of Program,
The Supreme Court’s Training Center***

Following the successful implementation of the Continuing Judicial Education (CJE II) Program in 2012 which covered three courses (case flow management, quality of judgments, and judicial ethics) in three regions, the Supreme Court with the full support from USAID C4J project started the development of Candidate Acting Registrar Education (CARE) program during the last quarter of 2012.

Efforts to improve education and training in the courts have been focused on mid-level judges. The Supreme Court started to place increased emphasis on a training program for court staff, with an initial emphasis on improving the quality of acting registrars. Improving skills and education of acting registrars is deemed important due to the facts: acting registrars work most directly with judges, preparing minutes of hearings, and managing the case file until the case is closed and decision uploaded; however, many acting registrars do not have a degree in law, hence, acting registrars are in even greater need of specialized training to address legal issues in the cases that they document, particularly complex cases.

During December 2012 and February 2013, training needs assessment (TNA) was carried out by the Supreme Court Training Center (Badiklat) and C4J at general district courts in six provinces: North Sulawesi, Central Java, North Sumatera, South Kalimantan, Aceh, and East Java. The TNA aimed to identify the existing gaps of acting registrars’ competencies with ideal expectation. A workshop conducted in 1-3 May 2013 to discuss the TNA recommended that acting registrars need to develop their skills in writing hearing minutes and improving their knowledge of court procedures. The discussion also revealed that acting registrars were never given a proper initial training when they started their job, and hence the training should focus on “candidate acting registrars” as the primary target.

The three days intensive workshop was also successful in drafting training materials, which covered essential subjects such as: Code of Ethics, Supervisory System, The Use of Information Technology in Case Management, Development of Communication and Information Skills/Management, Indonesian Language for Legal Profession (including Stenography), and Judicial Bureaucracy Reform. These materials tie in with the format and structure of Candidate Judges Education to ensure standardization and foster common understanding between judges and registrars, as well as sustaining reforms in all courts.

The C4J Project is a four-year project funded by USAID, and implemented by Chemonics International. C4J works with the Supreme Court and Attorney General’s Office to improve transparency and accountability in Indonesia’s justice system. The project began in May 2010, and will continue through May 2014. 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