



SUCCESS STORY

E-learning Adopted by Indonesia's Supreme Court

On 9 May 2014, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia launched its new E-learning program. The first course developed for the E-learning platform is on judicial ethics. In addition to reading materials and short videos on the Judicial Code of Conduct, judges are randomly assigned ten hypothetical questions on ethical scenarios that judges commonly encounter. With a score of nine correct answers out of ten, the judges are awarded a certificate. Judges may repeat the course as many times as necessary until they have successfully completed the course. The objective of the e-learning program is not to track how many times it takes to complete the course. Rather, the object is to ensure that each judge learns the subject matter well.



Image above: A judge takes the E-learning course on judicial ethics on his mobile phone.

“This is just the start of IT-based learning in the courts.”

***Hatta Ali,
Chief Justice,
Supreme Court of the
Republic of Indonesia***

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The Supreme Court has set ambitious objectives for training all judges and court staff in Indonesia, but the challenges of continuing education programs are substantial. Indonesia's judges and court staff are spread out among courts in an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands. There are more than 33,000 staff, over 7,000 of whom are judges. In 2013, the Supreme Court Training Agency was able to train only 15% of the total number of judges and court staff in need of trainings.

To address the challenge of delivering training programs to all judges and court staff, the Supreme Court Training Agency and the USAID Changes for Justice (C4J) project have cooperated to develop an alternative training approach using distance learning, or e-learning, through the internet. The Supreme Court Training Agency adopted an open-source Learning Management System due to the application's flexibility, user-friendliness, and ease of development for new training programs. As a first course, the Supreme Court decided to focus on training all judges from the general, religious, and state administrative courts on Indonesia's Judicial Code of Conduct.

The tailored e-learning system, known as ELMARI (E-learning Mahkamah Agung), was launched by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Hatta Ali, on 9 May 2014 in Jakarta. More than 70 chief judges from all of Indonesia's general, religious, and state administrative court of appeals (high courts) attended the launch. At the instruction of the Chief Justice, the high court chief judges are instructing the first instance courts under their respective jurisdictions to begin studying the first program on judicial ethics.

The course on judicial ethics requires judges to review basic materials and then to take a test of ten questions relating to hypothetical scenarios encountered by judges in Indonesia. The ten questions are tailored to each type of court and they are randomly selected and arranged from a database of more than fifty questions. Thus, the test is never the same for any one judge. Both wrong and right answers receive written explanation to provide additional guidance on how the Code of Judicial Conduct should be applied in practice. Judges are required to take the course until they receive a minimum score of 9 out of 10 correct, at which stage they may print an automatically generated certificate. Before printing their certificate, however, judges are required to propose an additional hypothetical question to the Training Agency so that the program is constantly renewed.

The Supreme Court is now planning additional e-learning programs per the Chief Justice's admonition that the courts adopt an independent learning culture that boosts the capacity of all judges and court staff.

The C4J Project is a five-year project funded by USAID, and implemented by Chemonics International. C4J works with the Supreme Court, Attorney General's Office, and communities to improve transparency and accountability in Indonesia's justice system. The project began in May 2010, and continues through May 2015. For more information on C4J, please contact the Contracting Officer's Representative Mr. Dondy Sentya, USAID Sr. Rule of Law Specialist at dsentya@usaid.gov.