

AIPJ3 Bulletin

Special Edition | June 2026

Celebrating 15 Years of Justice Partnership



Nicola Campion
Minister-Counsellor for Political
and Strategic Communications,
Australian Embassy Jakarta

As we mark 15 years of AIPJ, what stands out to me is how this partnership has matured and the strong sense of shared ownership. Indonesian and Australian counterparts now work side by side, and what began as technical cooperation has evolved into a strategic collaboration strengthening the rule of law and the security sector. It is deeply rewarding to see how this has reinforced both our institutions and the long-standing friendship between Australia and Indonesia. I would like to particularly acknowledge our colleagues in Bappenas for their leadership in shaping the program.

My role at the Embassy provides an insight into the breadth and complexity of AIPJ's work. Justice and security reform takes place in a dynamic context, where priorities such as criminal justice reform, countering violent extremism, and transnational crime must align with national interests and local realities. AIPJ provides a valuable platform for Australian agencies to engage closely with their Indonesian counterparts on these shared priorities.

A key lesson is that lasting progress relies on mutual respect, trust, and adaptability. Our success has come from listening and supporting Indonesia's leadership. As new challenges emerge, this partnership must continue to evolve.

Looking ahead, I am confident that AIPJ will deepen its impact and regional contribution, remaining a model of a modern, strategic partnership grounded in trust.



Erwin Dimas,
S.E., D.E.A., M.Sc.

Interim Deputy for Politics, Law,
Human Rights, Defense and Security,
Ministry of National Development Planning
(Bappenas)

The partnership between Australia and Indonesia has been a longstanding and productive collaboration. Through the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice (AIPJ) since 2011, it has continued through phase 2 (2017-2025) and into the current phase 3 (2025-2030). The partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening inclusive, accountable legal and security institutions in support of the rule of law in Indonesia.

As close geographic neighbors, Australia and Indonesia share a vital strategic partnership essential for maintaining security, peace, and regional stability across the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, their deepening economic and institutional cooperation drives mutual prosperity, sustainable development, and innovative digital and governance reforms. In times of global uncertainty, partnership across ministries and borders is not just a diplomatic strategy. It is our collective responsibility to continue structured dialogues and strengthen mutual trust so governments of Indonesia and Australia could navigate change and deliver outcomes with real, measurable impact of justice and security reform.

In this current phase, Bappenas is open for wider collaboration with multi stakeholders and civil society partners. The partnership is now involving 20-line ministries and approximately 71 sub-programmes. May the continuation of the AIPJ brings great hope for a more transparent, resilient, and equitable justice system that genuinely broadens access to justice for all. I am confident that our collaboration will lead to a more stable and equitable future for all.



Craig Ewers
Team Leader, AIPJ3



Many thanks for the contributions of our new and long time colleagues. Reading through everybody's comments, it's clear that AIPJ as a partnership has had a profound effect on the many people involved.

Colleagues highlighted different achievements; the achievements were transformative and almost always against the tide. This required trust and patience - terms repeated across our contributors' reflections. AIPJ has not just been about running activities, it has contributed to a stronger Indonesia-Australia relationship.

AIPJ is described many times as a bridge: between civil society and government; between Australian and Indonesian courts and law enforcement agencies; between national and subnational reforms; between elites and "grass roots"; and between DFAT and Bappenas, who represent the Australian and Indonesian Governments. It has become a bridge between development and security interests.

Despite the seriousness and sensitivity of the work, people enjoy being part of AIPJ. After 15 years of continuous adaptation and now into its third phase of evolution, AIPJ has been assessed as locally led, **effective and well governed**, and is still improving. Everyone is extraordinarily committed: the Bappenas team; the DFAT team; the AIPJ and DT Global teams; and all of the partners of AIPJ are proud of what has been achieved together and never give up in pushing through challenges, even if it takes time.

This is a celebration of a very positive partnership and there is so much more to do. Right now, we face our most ambitious work plan ever, limited resources, pressure on civil society, business uncertainty and many Indonesians not receiving the justice promised to them. Both Indonesian and Australian governments recognise this context and are clear in their direction for AIPJ. The level of engagement from our team and partners has never been higher. Our focus is on helping our partners to deliver justice and security outcomes that benefit Indonesia and Australia.

All of our colleagues express high hopes for AIPJ3. Your confidence and support are appreciated. You can be assured we will do our best.

Looking back at the past 15 years of the Australia–Indonesia justice partnership, one of the most meaningful milestones for me was the role of AIPJ Phase 1 in supporting the enactment and implementation of Law Number 16 of 2011 on Legal Aid. For me, this was not simply about the passing of a law. It was much more than that. It marked an important shift in the way the Indonesian State understood access to justice. Before the Legal Aid Law, legal aid in Indonesia was still fragmented. It relied mostly on the initiatives of NGOs, universities, legal aid organizations, and civil society groups. These initiatives were valuable, but they were not yet supported by a strong national system.

Through AIPJ, legal aid was brought into a broader development framework. AIPJ helped strengthen the evidence base, supported pilot initiatives, and contributed to the development of policy arguments that were useful for decision-makers. This was important because, in government planning, a good idea alone is never enough. A policy needs evidence, institutional support, and budget space.

As Director of Law and Human Rights at Bappenas at that time, I saw the Legal Aid Law as a concrete example of how a development partnership could contribute to structural reform. It changed the relationship between the State and its citizens. Access to justice was no longer seen merely as charity or social assistance. It became part of human development, democratic governance, and the responsibility of the State.

AIPJ also helped strengthen cooperation between Bappenas and National Legal Development Agency (BPHN), Ministry of Law of the Republic of Indonesia as key national institutions in this process. This was very important from the perspective of national development planning. At Bappenas, we always believed that a policy without a clear institution in charge and without fiscal space would remain only a policy on paper. The support for the national legal aid program showed that legal reform could be translated into a real program, with institutional responsibility and budget allocation.

Another milestone that stands out to me was the development of the Small Claims Court mechanism. AIPJ supported cooperation between the Supreme Court of Indonesia and the Federal Court of Australia. This cooperation helped Indonesia design a simpler and faster mechanism for resolving small civil disputes, a mechanism more relevant for ordinary citizens and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). For MSMEs, access to simple, affordable, and timely dispute resolution is not a small matter. It affects business certainty, trust, and the investment climate.



*Dr. Diani Sadia
Wati S.H.,
LL.M.*

**Director of Law and Human Rights
(2002-2011); Director of Legislative
and Regulatory Analysis
(2012-2016), Bappenas**

2011

From the perspective of Bappenas, this was a good example of how justice sector reform can contribute to economic development. Legal reform is often seen as abstract. But in this case, the impact was very concrete. A simpler court mechanism can reduce dispute resolution costs, help small businesses, and support ease of doing business.

Personally, these experiences taught me that legal reform in Indonesia is never a straight road. There were moments when the process felt slow. The discussion of the Legal Aid Law, for example, faced delays and political challenges. In the judiciary, new mechanisms such as small claims procedures also required careful discussion because institutions naturally tend to be cautious when adopting new practices.

What I appreciated from AIPJ was its patience. It did not work only through formal meetings in business hours. It worked any hours through technical discussions, working groups, peer learning, and trust-building. It helped create confidence among Indonesian institutions. It also used the Australian experience not as a model to be copied, but as a reference for learning.

For me, this is one of the most important lessons. In Indonesia, reform cannot rely only on strong legal ideas. Reform also needs institutional trust, reform champions, political timing, and the ability to translate international experience into Indonesia's own legal, social, and political context.

As part of the original design and implementation team of AIPJ in 2010-15 in Canberra and Jakarta, AIPJ remains close to my heart. One of my most memorable moments was attending the Palace to witness President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono launch Indonesia's first publicly funded legal aid system, a milestone that embodied so much of what I remain passionate about - access to justice and deep Australia-Indonesia cooperation. That experience also taught me that progress in law and justice reform is rarely linear, and when challenges arise, the most important thing is to never give up. As AIPJ moves through its third phase, my greatest hope is that it builds on these hard-won foundations while adapting to new challenges, helping both nations build more inclusive societies, strengthen public trust, and ensure that technological advancements bring shared prosperity, all while deepening that enduring "*tetangga*" (neighbourly) spirit between Australia and Indonesia.



Luke Arnold

**First Secretary, Governance,
Australian Embassy Jakarta
(2012-2015)**

2011

One milestone that stands out is witnessing the evolution of the court-to-court cooperation between Indonesia and Australia, from the first cooperation framework in 2004 to the 20-year Memorandum of Understanding signed in Jakarta in 2024, a journey that reflects remarkable trust, consistency, and shared commitment to judicial reform. AIPJ played a strategic role throughout, including in meaningful economic law reforms such as small claims dispute resolution and e-court modernisation. The greatest challenge has been sustaining momentum through shifting institutional priorities and leadership. Successful long-term reform depends not only on technical expertise, but on patience, trust, and adaptability. This shows the qualities that have defined the partnership's ability to remain engaged and responsive through every transition. Looking ahead in the third phase, I hope that AIPJ3 stays focused on foundational, long-term institutional reform rather than short-term responses, deepens locally-led approaches, and continues to innovate in the face of technological change and evolving public expectations.



Aria Suyudi

Chairman of Indonesia Jentera Law School (2024-present) and AIPJ Adviser



Two of the biggest achievements of AIPJ are ones that now seem almost taken for granted - that, I think, is testimony to their effectiveness.

The first is helping build law reform cooperation between key civil society stakeholders and government agencies. This involves a sort of triangulation strategy by which AIPJ works closely with both civil society groups and government officials to identify problems and then supports research for reforms that might overcome them, and partnership programs to implement those reforms.

The other is reform cooperation between Australian and Indonesian courts. When the first Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Indonesia and the Federal Court of Australia in 2004, it was globally the first ever court-to-court cooperation agreement to be supported by aid funding. It shows that the lawyers in two very different legal systems and cultures have much more in common than they could ever have expected!

Over the years, abrupt policy changes have sometimes forced AIPJ and its predecessor programs to come up with 'creative solutions' to keep vital engagements and partnerships thriving. But each time, it is close relations with Indonesian legal sector and civil society partners that have been the key to success. Similarly, the wider process of *reformasi*



Prof. Tim Lindsey

AIPJ Adviser

2011

has stalled over the last decade, and, in some areas has even begun to slip back markedly. This has been accompanied by growing pressure on civil society, which, in many ways, has been the engine room of policy development and a driver of remarkable legal change over the last three decades. My greatest hope is that AIPJ can continue its work supporting civil society, think-tanks, and law reformers to help them develop and implement the ongoing reforms that are key to a thriving democratic society.

I was actually involved in almost every phase of AIPJ programs, although in different capacities - as part of AusAID/DFAT in AIPJ1, as Program Director in TAF during AIPJ2 and now as AIPJ3 Justice and Security Lead. Working with AIPJ in different roles has given me a better understanding of not only about the programmatic issues but also of how the Australia - Indonesia partnership has contributed to supporting the Government of Indonesia's reform efforts. The program has been a melting pot to pilot and follow through on justice sector reform ideas from both government and civil society. AIPJ has also become a space to nurture peer-to-peer partnership between the Government of Australia's law enforcement agencies and Indonesia. The important lesson from this 15-years journey is to acknowledge that collaboration between civil society and government will determine the quality and sustainability of justice sector reform initiatives in Indonesia.

Based on PEKKA's long-term partnership with AIPJ, one of AIPJ's most important contributions to Indonesia's justice system has been its bridging role: opening civil society access to the Supreme Court and other key actors and translating grassroots evidence into policy dialogue and reform.

When PEKKA organized women-headed families communities in 2001, we found that 60% of women heads of household lacked legal marriage or divorce documents. As a result, many of their children had no birth certificates and faced broader legal and social disadvantages. These PEKKA communities often lacked information about their legal rights and how to access the justice system.



*Doddy
Kusadrianto*
**Justice and Security Lead,
AIPJ3**



Nani Zulminarni
**Founder and Director Yayasan
Pemberdayaan PEKKA
(2001 - 2020)**

2011

With AIPJ's support, we developed and implemented practical innovations—mobile courts and community paralegal capacity development—that brought legal services closer to communities and allowed them as research resource persons to benefit directly from locally appropriate solutions. This work also influenced national policy and helped institutionalize initiatives such as KLIK PEKKA, a community-based legal information and consultation clinic operating in more than ten provinces.

Beyond legal reform, AIPJ supported storytelling and citizen journalism—including simple bulletins—as empowerment tools for our beneficiaries, many of whom are among the poorest and are not active on social media. We then gradually introduced them to social media platforms so they could share stories, spread information, and strengthen community ties.

AIPJ's approach is a distinctive and effective model for system and frame change because it connects grassroots realities with high-level policy reform and shifts mindsets about access to justice for poor women-headed households at the grassroots level. We appreciate AIPJ's continued support for our access to justice strategy and look forward to continuing this work in Phase 3.

My journey with the partnership began in 2013. I was with SIGAB and we started to map and dig deeper into the issues of access to justice and legal support for persons with disabilities. In 2017, I had the opportunity to become more involved in the technocratic process. Through the support provided to the National Action Plan on Human Rights Secretariat, I learned to bridge the aspirations of the disability movement with the government's technocratic processes using evidence-based approaches.

Over time, this partnership has contributed to meaningful progress, including the development of various regulations within and beyond the justice sector. Through this experience, I learned that partnership is not always easy, but it is ultimately about building trust, sharing responsibility, and working towards common goals. While AIPJ has achieved significant progress, I believe this is still only the beginning for the disability movement. I hope the partnership will continue to strengthen more impactful and inclusive policies within the justice sector.



Foni Yulianto

**SIGAB Director
(2013-2017; 2024-present)
and AIPJ Adviser**

2013

Over the past 15 years with AIPJ, one of the most transformative milestones for me was the transition into AIPJ2, when I moved from primarily operational roles into managing the preventing violent extremism strategy and later contributing to addressing the transnational crime portfolio. What began as a completely new field became a journey of continuous learning and growth, shaped by close collaboration with government and civil society partners. Through this experience, I learned that genuine partnership is built not only through formal collaboration, but through long-term trust, open communication, mutual learning, and strong people-to-people relationships. I hope AIPJ3 continues to strengthen this partnership, as we grow and work together by being adaptive to emerging challenges, and creating spaces for dialogue and collaboration to achieve lasting change.



Afnia Sari
**Strategy Manager for
Preventing Violent Extremism
and Transnational Crime, AIPJ3**



2016

One milestone that stands out across 15 years of partnership is the 2019 amendment of Indonesia's Marriage Law and National Strategy for Prevention of Child Marriage, raising the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 19. AIPJ and MAMPU programs worked tirelessly with government and civil society partners to achieve this transformative change, led by the strength and tenacity of partners from Makassar who turned a once-taboo issue into lasting legislative reform. The journey taught us that patience, trust-building, and alignment with mutual priorities can turn complexity into opportunity, creating space for richer collaboration across a wider range of stakeholders. As AIPJ enters its third phase, I hope it continues to support the most marginalised communities in shaping a fairer, more accessible, and accountable justice system with even greater space for lived experience experts and justice-seekers to lead the way.



Lucia Pietropaoli
**First Secretary, Justice and
Democratic Governance,
Australian Embassy Jakarta
(2016-2019)**



A moment that really stayed with me was the move from AIPJ2 to AIPJ3. What stood out most was the trust. We could have open and honest conversations, even on difficult issues. For me, AIPJ became more than just a program. It became part of how our two countries work together and understand each other better. It showed how cooperation in justice and security can also strengthen our wider relationship.

What I have learned is that trust really matters. We cannot come in with ready-made answers, we need to listen, to understand, and support what Indonesia wants to achieve. When we do that, the work is more meaningful and lasts longer. AIPJ has also shown me that it is not just about development but also strengthening the relationship between our countries by creating space for honest conversations and building respect. In the end, the most important thing is how we work together. Strong relationships make it possible to keep moving forward, even when things are challenging.

My hope for AIPJ3 is simple. It continues to bring Indonesia and Australia closer. AIPJ is a good example of how working together on practical issues can build trust and understanding between countries. If we can support real reform while keeping that strong partnership, I think AIPJ3 will have a lasting impact.

What appeals to us about this partnership is its long-term, trust-based, and adaptive nature in supporting Indonesia's justice sector reform agenda. Over the past 15 years, the Australia-Indonesia partnership has evolved beyond traditional development cooperation into a strategic collaboration that aligns with Indonesia's national priorities and institutional needs. The Partnership emphasises mutual learning and locally led development, respecting Indonesia's ownership of reforms while providing space for innovation, knowledge exchange, and policy experimentation. This creates a more sustainable foundation for long-term institutional strengthening.

One of the more promising shifts in AIPJ3 is its explicit recognition that government cannot and should not drive justice reform in isolation. The program has shown greater intentionality in designing activities where government institutions work alongside (CSOs), academic institutions, and other non-state actors as co-contributors to the reform process. This is a meaningful departure from models where government is the sole implementer and CSOs are treated as peripheral voices. When these partnerships are structured well, they strengthen both the quality and the legitimacy of reform outcomes. Going forward,



Ade Ganie

**Unit Manager, Justice and Democratic Governance,
Australian Embassy Jakarta
(2016-present)**



*Hendra Wahanu
Prabandani
S.H., LL.M.*

**Director of Law Development,
Human Rights, Immigration,
and Corrections, Bappenas
(2025-present)**

2016

2025

Bappenas will continue to play a strategic convening and coordination role by bringing together ministries, law enforcement agencies, judicial institutions, development partners, and civil society to ensure that reform efforts remain aligned, evidence-based, and responsive to emerging challenges.

We also see the importance of building greater sustainability and local leadership into future cooperation. This means encouraging stronger institutional capacity, improving the use of data and policy evaluation, and ensuring that reform initiatives are embedded within national planning and budgeting systems rather than remaining project-based.

The next phase of the partnership should not only continue supporting core justice sector reforms, but also respond to new priorities such as digital governance, integrated public services, transnational legal challenges, protection of vulnerable groups, and the evolving needs of Indonesia's long-term development vision. Ultimately, we see the 15-year legacy not simply as a history of Australia-Indonesia cooperation in the field of justice and security, but as a foundation of trust and shared commitment that can support deeper and more transformative institutional reforms in the years ahead.

The partnership's 15-year legacy has laid a solid foundation, with strong governance and coordination between Australian and Indonesian ministries, agencies, and civil society in the justice and security sector. As AIPJ3 Equity Lead, I also see the importance of safeguarding within this ecosystem, particularly to uphold the principles of, and implement protection against, sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. This can be further fostered to the highest standards, and I hope to share my perspectives and expertise to advance this area of work within the partnership.



Syafirah Hardani
Equity Lead, AIPJ3

2025

Joining an Australian-supported project in a full-time capacity for the first time is an exciting opportunity for me. I am here to facilitate the team on their journey towards achieving the partnership's long-term goals. I appreciate how measurement is closely linked to program design and approaches, allowing behavior change and stronger impact stories to emerge over time. At the same time, I believe it is important to build sustainable collaboration between the program team and stakeholders, ensuring that measurement processes support, rather than disrupt, shared goals.



Yulianto Dewata

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Manager, AIPJ3



As a newer team member, one thing that has surprised me most is how collaborative and open the partnership is. AIPJ3 has a governance system and ways of working principles in place that encourage locally-led development and empower partners to achieve agreed policy priorities that are important to Australia and Indonesia, while maintaining flexibility. Communication feels constructive, and there is a strong sense of shared purpose and mutual respect that motivates collaboration and co-creation as one team. A long-standing legacy reflects consistency, trust, a shared vision and alignment. It is important for us to continue building on these values while also being open to growth and innovation.



Marie Astrid Wijaya

Partnership Manager, AIPJ3



AIPJ and its role in supporting counter-terrorism efforts in Indonesia, back then, was simply an academic subject I was passionate about. I never could have predicted that years later, I would find myself sitting on the other side of the table as a member of AIPJ3.

My career path here has not been entirely straightforward. I stepped away from the communications field altogether after starting my career in the private sector, with a focus on digital and brand communications. While the work was professionally engaging, something felt missing. It left me questioning whether this was really the right place for me to make a meaningful contribution.

Joining AIPJ3 as the Public Diplomacy Officer changed that completely. I feel a deeper sense of purpose and empowerment in my work knowing that my contributions, however small, are part of something that genuinely impacts communities and people's lives. This partnership does not just give me a role. It gives me a reason to stay, to grow, and to move with intention. Getting the job done is one thing, but making people aware that it has been done and that they have benefited from it, is another thing entirely. I have always believed that we never lack good policies. What we sometimes lack is the bridge that connects the work to the people it was always meant for. That bridge is the story and advocacy we share.

I was also surprised by the balance between professionalism and friendliness within the team. Everyone is so genuinely caring, not just about each other's professional growth, but also their personal wellbeing. The way people speak up for one another and truly have each other's backs is something I did not see coming, and it means a lot.



Farah Oedjianto

Public Diplomacy Officer, AIPJ3





Bringing Access to Justice Through Digital Innovation

Australia and Indonesia are strengthening cooperation on justice sector reform through digital innovation and technology-focused capacity building.

In May 2026, the Australian Government through AIPJ3, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) and the Australia Awards Indonesia (AAI), launched a short course titled Leveraging Technology and Data for the Justice and Security Sector.

From 25 May to 5 June 2026, 25 participants from Indonesia's public and private sectors will take part in the program, designed to strengthen skills in navigating an increasingly digitised justice and security landscape. The course focuses on technological innovation, including artificial intelligence (AI), emerging technologies

and data-driven policymaking in the justice sector.

The program includes workshops in Indonesia and a two-week intensive course in Australia, followed by post-course activities where participants present projects aimed at applying their learning in practice. The participants agreed the short course is highly relevant to current developments in Indonesia (and globally), particularly in the areas of data interoperability and AI governance, as both issues are important for the development of this sector.

AIPJ3 will also facilitate a seminar in October 2026 to showcase participants' projects and explore opportunities for integration into future AIPJ3 program activities.



Courtesy of Australian Awards Indonesia

Participant of the short course during two-week intensive course in Australia.



Indonesia's Supreme Court Launches Guidebook on Restitution for Human Trafficking Victims



Courtesy of ASEAN ACT

(from left to right) the Head of the Women and Children Working Group, Hon. Justice Suharto and the Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, Tiffany McDonald accompany the Chief of Justice Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Sunarto, presented a guidebook to the Chairperson of the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), Anis Hidayah.

On 13 April 2026, Indonesia's Supreme Court officially launched the Guidebook on Restitution in Trafficking in Persons Cases, marking an important step towards strengthening a victim-centred justice system for survivors of human trafficking.

Human trafficking remains one of the most serious human rights violations in Indonesia, disproportionately affecting women and children and leaving long-term physical, psychological, social and economic impacts. While Indonesia has established legal frameworks, including Law No. 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and Supreme Court Regulation No. 1 of 2022 on restitution procedures, implementation challenges continue.



The judiciary is not only required to uphold the law but also to ensure that the victims' rights are fulfilled, including the right to restitution as a form of justice that restores victims' dignity of victims. This guidebook reflects collaboration in strengthening victim protection and is expected to serve not merely as a normative

document, but as a practical instrument to advance the protection and fulfilment of victims' rights more effectively



said Chief of Justice, Hon. Judge Sunarto in his keynote speech.

Read more: [*Strengthens Protection for Victims, Supreme Court Launches Pocket Book on Restitution in Human Trafficking Cases*](#)

The guidebook was developed by the Supreme Court's Working Group on Women and Children in collaboration with the ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN ACT) program, with technical advisory support from AIPJ3. It is designed to help judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and law enforcement officers apply restitution mechanisms more consistently in human trafficking cases. It also provides guidance on access to victim assistance funds for survivors of trafficking involving sexual exploitation under Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes.

Australian Ambassador to ASEAN Tiffany McDonald highlighted that Australia is proud to support the initiative, reaffirming a shared commitment to ensuring justice for trafficking victims is measured not only by the conviction of traffickers, but also by the fulfilment of victims' rights and dignity.



Courtesy of Australian Embassy

DGCE K9 detector dog, Xandra, demonstrates narcotics detection capabilities during a practical showcase, highlighting the results of its specialised training.



Indonesia and Australia Strengthen Border Enforcement Through Detector Dog Program

Indonesia's Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE) and Australian Border Force (ABF) share a long-standing cooperation to counter transnational crime focused on capacity building, knowledge sharing, data exchange, and mutual support in the World Customs Organization (WCO) Forum. The partnership, which began with the Customs to Customs Talk in 1993 and a renewed Memorandum of Understanding is due to be signed this year. This has contributed to stronger border security and economic cooperation between Australia and Indonesia.

A major achievement of this partnership is the Regional Dog Training Center (RDTC) in Rawamangun, East Jakarta. Recognised by the WCO as the leading detector dog training facility in Southeast Asia, the centre currently houses up to 60 dogs trained to detect narcotics and cash linked to money laundering as well as providing training facilities for Indonesia and the Asia Pacific Region.



The detector dog program is central to the Australia – Indonesia border enforcement ecosystem and reflects a close partnership to combat narcotics smuggling and transnational crime. We are proud to be partnering with our colleagues at DGCE 

said Inspector Sarah Body, First Secretary ABF - Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

The RDTC manages active, newly trained, and retired detector dogs. One of its most celebrated detector dogs, Andro, a 12-year-old Labrador Retriever, helped **detect 2.6 tonnes of methamphetamine during two major maritime operations in Batam in 2018**, and uncovered narcotics worth an estimated 17 billion Rupiah in Riau in 2021.



Courtesy of Australian Embassy

Xandra and her handler conducted a practical cargo search exercise during a training session.

During AIPJ3's bridging phase, ABF supported DGCE through technical trainings and initiatives to improve detector dog welfare, including retirement and adoption programs. ABF also facilitated an exchange program for four DGCE dog handlers with the ABF Detector Dog Program in Perth, Australia in February 2026 and conducted the **Pawsome Festival in October 2025**.

"The collaboration with ABF has provided our instructors and dog handlers with valuable opportunities to learn from Australia. In the future, we

plan to establish a dog breeding centre to develop stronger and more resilient detector dogs so efforts to counter cross-border narcotics smuggling can be further strengthened," **said Denny Benhard, Head of Detector Dog (K-9) Subdivision Unit at DGCE**.

The ABF – DGCE detector dog program, alongside border threat workshops and frontline women in leadership initiatives, is part of the Australia – Indonesia Strong Borders Program supported by AIPJ3 during the implementation phase commencing in June 2026.

Meet Our Team

- New staff members joining the team in May 2026.



Left to right:

1. Hapsari Sapta Dewi (Rian) – Activity Coordinator
2. Anastasia Vania Putri (Putri) – Strategy Manager, Commercial Law Reform and Responses to Climate Change



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The Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 3 (AIPJ3) is a joint initiative between Australian and Indonesian Governments and implemented by DT Global

