



Sharing the knowledge



The centrepiece of IM4DC's agreement with Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is the delivery of advanced training for mines inspectors. These participants are among the 1,000 Indonesian mines inspectors being trained to oversee mining operations and administer the country's new mining laws

A resource worth tapping

With abundant resources playing a key role in its expanding economy, the Indonesian Government is tapping Australia's experience in all areas of mining development, taking advantage of expertise on offer at the International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC), a collaboration with the University of Queensland.

Given Indonesia's current emphasis on health and safety, environmental protection and sustainability, the government was quick to appreciate training opportunities offered by the UWA-based Centre. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has already signed an agreement with IM4DC for training geared to building capacity in mining, oil, gas and geology, with courses being delivered both in Australia and in Indonesia.

The current centrepiece of the partnership is collaboration in training programs for mines inspectors, the front-line mining supervisors for national and regional governments. In addition, government officials and university academics participate in global short courses.

"Working with universities and other training institutes, we aim not only to collaborate on research but also to improve curriculum, teaching and learning," says Centre director Ian Satchwell. "The partnerships are already proving to be rewarding, and there's much potential for greater collaboration to achieve our shared goals of lifting the capacity of people and institutions."

IM4DC is supported by both the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. For more information, visit: www.im4dc.org

Working with our sister state

While a sister state relationship strengthens trade, education and cultural links between WA and East Java, it is health links that interest audiologist Helen Goulios, Clinical Coordinator of the Master of Clinical Audiology Program (School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology).

The UWA graduate has witnessed the strengthening of this relationship established more than two decades ago, and she hopes the next collaborative initiative will see Indonesian students studying as clinicians in WA.

"We have great support both from both the WA and East Java governments," says Dr Goulios. "After being approached by the charity, we did an assessment of needs and costs across the board: for clinics, for audiologists, teachers and those able to identify problems and organise intervention services.

"A child with a hearing loss may only be identified when starting school. However, now there's a drive across Indonesia for inclusive education and the government is keen to improve services for children born with hearing loss. We have a Memorandum of Agreement between UWA and Airlangga University in Surabaya to help establish Indonesia's first audiology education program."

Dr Goulios supervises students whose research will make a difference for children in East Java: developing a speech test for preschool children (with the help of the Indonesian Consulate that encouraged Indonesian children in Perth to be part of a pilot project); gathering baseline data on the prevalence of hearing loss; providing a training resource package for teachers supporting hearing-impaired children and a mentoring program for nurses trained to perform basic hearing testing.

For more information on the Master of Clinical Audiology Program, visit: www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/courses/master-of-clinical-audiology



Dr Helen Goulios and Audiology Masters student Nicole Stagoll take Ahmad Haziq through the speech test they developed for screening hearing children