

BALANCE

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Indonesian Judicial Exchange Visit

Four Indonesian judges took part in an inaugural judicial exchange visit to Darwin at the end of October which was considered by all those involved to be of lasting value in the development of regional ties.

The visiting party, representing the highest level of the judiciary in Indonesia, included the Hon Justice M Yahya Harahap, SH, Deputy Chief Justice (Criminal Law) of the Supreme Court of Indonesia, the Hon Justice Johannes Djohansjah, SH, of the Supreme Court of Indonesia, Judge Prof Dr Paulus Effendie Lotulung, SH, Head of the Research and

Development Division of the Supreme Court of Indonesia and Judge Mr Barita Saragih, Secretary to the Vice Chief Justice.

The visit, which was hosted by LAWASIA and funded by the LAWASIA Research Institute, the Northern Territory Government and the Australia Indonesia Institute allowed the judges to meet with a number of key figures in both the legal profession and the government.

Their visit coincided with that of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia which provided an opportunity for the visitors to meet with the Hon Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE.

Visits were also paid to the Minister for Correctional Services, the Hon Eric Poole, MLA and the Minister for Asian Trade and Industry, the Hon Daryl Manzie, MLA at Territory Perspective.

The party was welcomed at the Faculty of Law and the Centre for South East Asian Law at the NTU where they met with staff and students and were addressed by Peter McNab on *Constitutional and Administrative Law in Australia*.

The Acting Chief Justice of the Northern Territory, Sir William Kearney, CBE, hosted a lunch and a tour of the



Left to right: (Back) Khami Nyunt, LAWASIA, Bapak Barita, Bapak Johannes, Sherry Meakin (Chief Minister's Dept), Bapak Paulus, Law Society Vice President, Alan Lindsay, Indonesian Vice-Consul Argus Sardjana.

(Front) Ros West, LAWASIA, Mrs May Oh, Vice-President, LAWASIA, Bapak Harahap.

Supreme Court for the visiting party. Alan Lindsay, Vice President of the Law Society, accompanied the visitors to a meeting with Chief Magistrate Ian Gray followed by a tour of the Magistrates' Court and the detention cells. Following a visit to the Northern Territory Library, the judges attended an informal luncheon hosted by the Law Society, prior to an afternoon trip to the Darwin Correctional Centre and the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre.

The Chief Minister, Shane Stone MLA QC met with the delegation on several occasions and hosted an official government dinner

to welcome the visitors, where they were able to meet ministers in the NT Government and other dignitaries in the local legal community, including the President of the Law Society, Steve Southwood.

Each of the judges has an impressive record of service to the judicial system in Indonesia and it was evident that they welcomed the opportunity to develop further their knowledge of the legal system in Australia and in particular the Northern Territory.

They were highly impressed by the facilities and arrangements within the legal system in the NT.

The visit was arranged on the initiative of the Judicial Section of LAWASIA and the LAWASIA Research Institute and was intended to foster relations and develop a mutual understanding between the judiciaries of both countries.

It is hoped that this inaugural visit will form the basis of an ongoing exchange program between Australia and countries of the Asia-Pacific region, where members of the legal communities of these countries may continue to exchange views, discuss problems and create lasting and valuable contacts.