

Research Projects funded in 2007

Pilot round

Identifying the root causes of weak governance in Wamena, Papua

Dr Vidhyantika Djati Perkasa, Ms Medelina Hendytio, Mr Made Leo Wiratma, Centre for Strategic and International Studies and Associate Professor Richard Chauvel, Victoria University. Wamena has been described as perhaps the 'most striking example' of weak government capacity and growing corruption in Papua. The purpose of this study is to identify the root causes of weak governance in Wamena and to isolate the contributing factors that impede or support the establishment of good governance. The research team will recommend ways to enhance local problem-solving capacity.

Civil Society Organisations' strategies for influencing local regulatory and policy making processes

Dr Michele Ford, University of Sydney and Mr Surya Tjandra, Atma Jaya University. In the 'New Indonesia', Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have the potential to influence policy-setting and policy making at the local level through interventions in local politics. In the past, CSOs concerned with industrial relations have focused their lobbying efforts almost exclusively on the national, and to a much lesser extent, the provincial stage. Through the cases of Batam and Surabaya, this project seeks to determine the extent to which CSOs have used new opportunities to shape local policy within the industrial relations sphere.

A national integrity system assessment for Indonesia

Professor Charles Sampford, Dr Arthur Shacklock, Griffith University, Professor Azyumardi Azra, State Islamic University S. Hidayatullah and Dr I Ketut Putra Erawan, University of Gadjah Mada. This project breaks new ground by undertaking the first national integrity system assessment (NISA) for Indonesia. Focussing on the cities of Jakarta and Yogyakarta, researchers will identify the range of institutions and mechanisms that make up Indonesia's integrity system, map how these elements relate to each other and identify gaps and overlaps between them. After assessing the strengths, weaknesses and risks in the current integrity system, the research team will suggest strategies to further strengthen this system.

Regional autonomy and human resources management

Professor Mark Turner, Dr Wahyu Sutiyono, University of Canberra, Dr Amar Imbaruddin, STIA-LAN, Dr Hani Handoko, Gadjah Mada University and Ms Meiliani, Bengkulu University. This study aims to identify whether there are particular human resources management arrangements in the subnational governments which are more conducive to producing the desired level of public service performance.

Small and medium enterprise recovery after the 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake

Dr Catur Sugiyanto, University of Gadjah Mada and Dr Budy Resosudarmo, Australian National University. This project sets out to determine the factors that have influenced the recovery of small and medium enterprises in Bantul following the Yogyakarta earthquake in May 2006. Researchers will investigate both the type of support and the nature of institutional backing during the recovery period in order to isolate the particular factors that helped speed up recovery.

The mechanism and impact of the specific allocation fund in Indonesia's decentralised financing

Dr Asep Suryahadi, Dr Syaiku Usman, Mr Andri Poesoro, the SMERU Research Institute and Professor Charles Sampford, Griffith University. This study investigates national policy and mechanism formulation with relation to the specific allocation fund (DAK). Researchers will also assess the implementation of DAK in the districts of Kupang, Wonogiri, Gorontalo and Banda Aceh. Drawing on this fieldwork, the team will highlight the difficulties faced by local government in administering the fund.

Religious organizations, social capital and governance: the role of Madrassah

Dr Pataporn Sukontamarn, University of Adelaide, Dr Dominicus Savio Priyarsono and Dr Nunung Nuryantono, Bogor Agricultural University. This project will provide consider the impact of religious organisations and Madrassah on social capital and democratic performance.

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Round One

Building the capacity of personnel in the Directorate General of Taxes by using 'action learning groups' to encourage cultural change

Dr Kate Collier, University of Technology Sydney, Dr Ali Rokhman, University of Soedirman. Working with officials at the Directorate General of Taxes, the researchers will investigate whether action learning groups (a peer-learning strategy) can be used in the workplace to encourage personnel to participate in workplace learning and through this to more readily embrace cultural change.

Public sector comparator for public-private-partnered water sector development

Professor Sherif Mohamed, Griffith University and Mr Andreas Wibowo, Ministry of Public Works, Bandung. This study aims to support the development of a public sector comparator (PSC) for water sector development projects procured through public-private-partnership in Indonesia. The PSC will provide public officials with a reliable means to accurately evaluate all the benefits and risks associated with private sector proposals against the cost associated with public sector procurement of the same project.

The political economy of local syariahisation: analysing the changing relationship between state and capital in post-New Order Indonesia

Dr Greg Fealy, Australian National University and Mr Luthfi Makhasin, University of Soedirman. The research team will investigate structures of political power and economic interest that lie behind local government efforts to introduce sharia-inspired bylaws and statutes. This study will examine how the private sector has responded and adapted to a more Islamised political and economic system.

Beyond stabilization: reinvigorating the Indonesian manufacturing industry

Dr Dionisius Nardjoko, Centre for Strategic and International Studies and Professor Hal Hill, Australian National University. The Indonesian manufacturing industry did not fully recover from the economic crisis. In examining the structure and performance of the industry after the crisis, this study will investigate the role of domestic economic policy on manufacturing performance.

Metropolitan regional local governance in Brisbane and Semarang

Associate Professor John Minnery, Dr Donovan Storey, University of Queensland and Mr Jawoto Setyoko, Diponegoro University. In this analysis of local governance in a developed city (Brisbane) and a developing city (Semarang), researchers will compare responses to key governance issues such as the coordination of land uses, infrastructure and the growth of urban regions across formal administrative boundaries.

Evaluating models for the effective governance of the informal security sector in the context of broader state building process

Professor Richard Robison, Dr Ian Wilson, Murdoch University and Professor Adrianus Meliala, University of Indonesia.

A pervasive system of extra legal security involving militias and gangs has been consolidated and transformed in the post Soeharto era. This research will critically assess attempts by national and international organisations to address the problem of policing through policy and institutional reforms.

Aceh: policy making and legal institutions

Dr Edward Aspinall, Australian National University, Otto Syamsuddin Ishak, University of Syiah Kuala. This project aims to understand the ways by which civil society groups have influenced government policy making in Aceh. It will achieve this by examining the two broad categories of *qanun* (provincial regulations): *qanun* which establish new political institutions and governance procedures for Aceh, and *qanun* which introduce elements of a new legal system based on Islamic law. In addition, the project will investigate the methods used by civil society groups in the policy lobbying process; the determinants of their success, and government responses to civil society input.

Local executive elections: lesson for electoral administration, voter behaviour and electoral results at the local level

Mr Hadar Gumay, Centre for Electoral Reform and Dr Stephen Sherlock, Centre for Democratic Institutions. This project will assess the effectiveness of elections administration at the local level by looking at political party and candidates behaviour, voting patterns and the political outcomes of the Governatorial and Mayoral elections.

Judicial responses to corruption in Indonesia

Dr Simon Butt and Mr Firmansyah Arifin, National Consortium for Law Reform. Dr Simon Butt and Mr Firmansyah Arifin, National Consortium for Law Reform. This project considers recent reforms to Indonesia's anti-corruption regime, including the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Anti-Corruption Court. From an analysis of Anti-Corruption Court decisions, the research team shows that, although appropriately criticised in some respects, these institutions have, together, investigated, prosecuted and convicted 'corruptors' with reasonable success. The team then examines several Constitutional Court decisions which, legal commentators claim, undermine key aspects of these reforms. However, the team argues, presuming some parliamentary intervention, these decisions are unlikely to significantly hamper the effectiveness of these reforms.

Topline research findings for all Pilot and Round One funded research projects will be available following the Policy Research Forum in December 2007.

