

Introduction to the programme by Ibu Teriska

Coaching for Quality Improvement

After a very long time since I finished my study in the University of Manchester in 1985, I had the opportunity again to visit the UK in 2004, to attend two important seminar and workshops, one in IOE for Quality Assurance in Education and the other one in Bath Spa for School Leadership. In Bath Spa, I met Mr Christopher Palmer from the British Council in London, who became one of the guest lecturers in the workshop.

For the second time in 2005, I went again and participated in workshops on School Leadership in Edinburgh. In those two workshops, I had opportunities to visit a number of good schools which was really inspiring. I kept thinking how I can possibly take and provide this kind of workshop for more school leaders in Indonesia? I know that the standard of education in the UK is extremely high, not only in the management system in education but also through the leadership and the role of Headteachers, which are remarkably outstanding. I wanted to find out how can these competencies be shared with the other Headteachers in Indonesia, to produce a much better education for the future.

In 2006, just a few months after my promotion to P4TK TK and PLB, I met Chris again in Bandung in a Montage programme. Then I had a chance to explain to him the idea of having a workshop for school principals. P4TK TK and PLB (Special Education and Kindergarten Teacher Training Centre) will be responsible for the availability of participants to join the workshop.

After a few months and several meetings, a school leadership programme has been successfully conducted in Bandung and Jakarta, participated in by a number of 90 participants (a group of 30 persons for each session). I really thank and feel grateful to Chris, that the programme has happened here. I really believe that the 90 participants will be able to disseminate what they have learned during the workshop under the supervision and leadership of Tom Whittingham and Liz Townend (South Gloucestershire Council, Learning and School Effectiveness Service), particularly assisted by Itje Chodijah and Leliana Setiono (British Council, Jakarta). Some of the participants have reported that:

1. Coaching is a good school developmental tool because the Headteachers have now learned how to facilitate and direct the teachers as colleagues and to develop their school programme in team work.
2. Having partnership with the other schools in the UK, and become a very important part of the programme because their expectation is to develop their school to obtain International standards in Indonesia.
3. The approaches in the workshop led by Tom and Liz has inspired the participants to be more open to each other. They realised that sharing, caring and working together, are some key factors for the managers and leaders to develop schools.

I really appreciate and thank the British Council in Jakarta as well as in London, especially to Susan Douglas, that the programme is developing very well and I really hope that this will be continued in the future by sending Indonesian Headteachers to the UK to learn how to make good schools for the benefit of students. In March 2008, I will support a symposium, hoping to see all of the participants and our UK facilitators.

Ibu Teriska
P4TK TK and PLB

Introduction to the programme by Christopher Palmer

School Leadership Introduction

The school leadership project is a central component of the British Council's strategy for schools in Indonesia. With an ambitious target of linking up to one thousand schools in our two countries, we are seeking to engage with schools at all levels. With heads, representing the most influential group in developing policy and strategy in schools, with teachers who influence curriculum and teaching content, and finally students whose development as successful global citizens fulfilling their full potential is the reason schools exist in the first place.

The school leadership project emerged from a series of strategic visits in both directions in the first half of 2007, including a visit by Tom Whittingham and Liz Townend, who together with colleagues in P4TK and the Ministry of Education designed a programme to engage with Indonesian heads in three ways: improving leadership skills, supporting individual school development projects and, providing a framework for introducing an international dimension into school life.

Being a school head can be a very solitary activity where the risks are high, but also the potential rewards. To create a platform for dialogue with heads in the UK is a highly innovative component of the programme and is designed to meet the needs and interests of heads and aspiring heads in both countries. Using peer review, coaching and mentoring, heads in Indonesia can engage with their counterparts in the South Gloucestershire undergoing coaching and mentoring skills training. By becoming 'critical friends' to their Indonesian counterparts we hope a mutually beneficial relationship will evolve, one that will permeate beyond the leadership programme per se and ultimately lead to wider engagement across their schools.

This programme is unique to the British Council and offers a fascinating opportunity for heads to learn from and with each other in our two countries.

Good luck with this endeavour.

Selamat belajar bersama!

Christopher Palmer
British Council