Indonesia is a country undergoing rapid political and social change as it struggles to develop democratic governance after more than 30 years of dictatorship. The recent political reforms necessitate changes in the country's educational curriculum, particularly in social studies courses such as government, history, and civics. New approaches are being sought that promote democracy, conflict resolution, and multiculturalism.

Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP, formerly Padang Teacher Training College) has long had a relationship with Indiana University's School of Education through its alumni. In October 2000, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs awarded a three-year University Affiliations grant for $130,000 to the school for the development of civic education in Indonesia through its association with UNP and the Indonesian Ministry of National Education (MONE). IU's Center for International Education and Development Assistance (CIEDA) facilitated in winning the grant with a planning visit to Indonesia earlier in the fall by assistant director Kay Ikranagara.

The project supports collaborative work among UNP's Centre for Civic Education, the School of Education at IU, and the Curriculum Development Centre of the Indonesian Ministry of National Education. The Social Studies Development Center (SSDC) and its ERIC Clearinghouse for International Civic Education at IU are serving as resource centers for the project. The project calls for the exchange of eight faculty and researchers from Indonesia and five from IU. It addresses three objectives: teacher education, curriculum development, and faculty development. Participating faculty of UNP and IU as well as members of the MONE Curriculum Development Centre will collaborate on the development of a framework and set of guidelines for educating teachers in new approaches to civic education. All UNP and MONE participants will develop workshops and seminars upon their return to share with colleagues learning about civic education and teacher education. In addition, faculty capacities in global and multicultural teacher education will be strengthened at both institutions.

In December 2000, Professor Dr. Zainil, vice rector for Finance and Administration, and Dr. Azwar Ananda, lecturer in UNP's Department of Civic Education, spent two weeks in Bloomington for an initial site visit. During their stay, Drs. Zainil and Ananda were hosted by Gerardo Gonzalez, dean of the School of Education, Patrick O'Meara, dean for International Programs, and Margaret Sutton, assistant professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and the project director.

In February 2001, the first two participants arrived in Bloomington. Dr. Ananda is spending the semester at the school reviewing civic education policies internationally and their implementation within the state of Indiana. Dr. Hermana Somantrie, educational researcher in the Curriculum Centre of MONE, spent one month at IU, designing a research project that will inform the development of Indonesia's new national curriculum in civic education.

IU participants who will be going to Indonesia during the project are faculty members Christine Bennett, emeritus professor Howard Mehlinger, Margaret Sutton, and doctoral candidate in educational leadership and policy studies, Wendy Gaylord. IU education faculty assisting in the project include John Patrick, the director of SSDC; Robert Arnove; Fred Risinger; Martha Nyikos; and Enid Zimmerman.

—Kay Ikranagara
CIEDA