REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

By: Timor Leste Group

Timor Leste participants in CDI Course, once again had opportunity to visit Australian Parliament House on 24 March 2010. Even the visit was very shortly in a few hours, some information were explored during the time, by directly observation and informal discussion. The activities in Parliament House can be described to five parts;

1. **Tour Surrounding Parliament House**
   Coming to the Parliament House at 10 O’clock AM, and Mr. Michel (Parliament House Guide) was waiting there to guide us for an hour tour surrounding house. During the tour, there’s a short description about the meaning of Canberra as a meeting site according to aboriginal term. The tour was held to House of Representative and Senate meeting room, committee room, government office (Prime Minister and ministers), then to the base and roof of building as well. Generally, if sought from outside, the building looked like boomerang (aboriginal weapon), and inside the building is very large and complicated to discover in a short time. After the tour, we continued to library to meet Mr. David Watt (Researcher Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Section, Parliamentary Library) at 11.00 O’clock.

2. **Meeting with Mr. David Watt**
   Mr. David is a good person who give us a great opportunity to look at database which contained any activities running in Parliament House. The database was very structurally and specific organized. The database covered house activities, senate works, committee works, bills and legislation process, media, constitution, library, and publication. Mr. David explained how the database underpinned the work of researcher in conducting their services for members of parliament and committee.

3. **Meeting with Mr. Ravindra Tomar and Mr. Nigel Brew**
   We had also discussion with some senior researchers as Mr. Ravindra Tomar (Senior Researcher for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Section, Parliamentary Library), and Mr. Nigel Brew (Director Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Section, Parliamentary Library).
   The discussion was very interactive and friendly. We get a lot of information on research works specially some description about specification area relating to research works. According to Mr. Brew, research in parliament house is a branch of library in spite of information section. Research branch consists of seven section; economy section, defence and security section, law section, politics and administration section, science and technology section, statistic section, and social policy section. There’s also explanation of some products of research work, such as; research paper and background note. The research paper contains more about analysis, and background note is the same things as description style.

4. **Meeting with Mrs. Nola Adcock, (Assistant Secretary of Research Branch, Parliamentary Library).**
   It was interesting to meet Mrs. Nola Adcock. We had a chance to share information each other. Mrs. Nola expressed her personal interest to know research works in our office. We appreciated her very much, by giving responses to any questions on our works. Mrs. Nola
encouraged us to work hard and being professional, even our research centre are now in building process.

5. Meeting with Mr. Angus Martyn (Director of Law and Bill Digest Section, Research Branch, Parliamentary Library).

After meeting with Mrs. Nola, we had occasion of meeting and discussing with Mr. Angus. We were sharing information about research works of both side of Timor Leste Parliament House and Australian Parliament House. Mr. Angus will come to East Timor as a trainee for some parliament staff of Timor Leste. So in our meeting, we identified the problems and needs to be considered and explored in the coming training which will be held on May, 2010. We also advised Mr. Angus to email directly our director for well identification of the problems and the needs to be considered in the coming training.

CONCLUSION
It’s very interesting for us to visit again Australian Parliament House and exploring more information over there. Generally, we enjoyed so much the tour, meeting and discussion with our colleagues at library office of Parliament House. We appreciate the experiences, knowledges were shared by our colleagues. We’re grateful for courages, supports and also hospitalies those we got from colleagues. Thanks so much to CDI for arranging the activity and hope to get anymore another opportunity in the future.