

Highlight News

March 25, 2007
 March 24, 2007
 March 23, 2007
 March 22, 2007
 March 21, 2007
 March 20, 2007

Announcement

Today's Frontpage



Online Edition

Latest News
Images

Print Edition

News
 Features
 Supplement
 Gallery

Weekly Roundup
 Past Editions

Members Area

Register
 Login

Archives
 Who's Who

Resources

Acronyms
 Addresses
 Indonesian Cabinet
 Indonesian History
 RI-GAM MOU

State of the Nation
Address 2006

President's
 Inauguration Speech
 Tsunami Declaration
 Links

Where to go

About Us

Company Info
 Online Media Kit
 Print Media Kit

Joint int'l graft research sought

National News - March 22, 2007

Alvin Darlanika Soedarjo, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta

Experts from the World Bank and Ivy League academia called for cooperation between foreign and Indonesian researchers to find better and more innovative ways of combating corruption.

"The World Bank is encouraging researchers from Indonesia and the Western world to do joint research to find out what methods work in combating corruption and what don't," said Joel Hellman, Acting Country Director of World Bank in Indonesia.

He told *The Jakarta Post* the bank had invited young researchers and economists to present their findings at a three-day seminar at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

The researchers come from the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), which consists of researchers from American universities such as Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"They are the most innovative young researchers around," Joel added.

Some 30 experts and researchers from Indonesia were invited to the event. They represented the Institute for Economic and Social Research at the University of Indonesia, Gadjah Mada University, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the Attorney General's Office and the Supreme Audit Agency.

"Bureaucrats are here to identify key areas or 'road maps' for research. The studies themselves are done by independent researchers," Joel said.

He said he hoped the causes of corruption in Indonesia could be made clearer by the joint research, which would also be aimed at devising new anti-corruption measures.

"Indonesia has the chance to become a leader in research on corruption," he said.

KPK deputy chairman Amien Sunaryadi said policy to combat graft would be better if it was based on research.

"A road map is needed in order to better find, prevent and detect corruption," he said.

Benjamin Olken, an economist from Harvard University and a



A SMALL
PART OF
THE BRAIN
INFLUENCES
THE MOST
COMPLEX
FUNCTIONS
OF THE
BODY.

researcher at J-PAL, told the audience that corruption was self-enforcing.

"If the judicial system is corrupt, it's very hard to punish anyone for being corrupt, including members of the judicial system," said Olken, who conducted a study of corruption in Aceh.

He added that solutions to corruption mostly involved changing laws or the bureaucracy rather than increasing monitoring.

The foreign researchers also suggested research into new corruption monitoring technology as well as measures to prevent auditors and supervisors themselves from becoming corrupt.

Olken admitted that there was still little evidence on whether rotating auditors and supervisors could limit corruption.

Another researcher from the group, Rema Hanna, a professor at New York University, conducted a research in India looking into simple technology that could reduce absenteeism amongst government employees.

By taking time-stamped photograph of teachers in front of class at the beginning and end of each day, teacher attendance and test scores were improved. "This could work for officials other than teachers," Hanna said.

[News](#) [Features](#) [Supplement](#)
[Gallery](#) [Weekly Roundup](#) [Your Column](#) [Past Editions](#)
[Acronyms](#) [Addresses](#) [Indonesian Cabinet](#)
[Indonesian History](#) [Links](#) [Where to go](#)
[Archives](#) [Who's Who](#)
[Company Info](#) [Online Media Kit](#) [Print Media Kit](#) [Home](#)