



# School Construction in Indonesia Gathers Momentum - BEP

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer attended the school inauguration ceremony on the 6 March 2007 in Bekasi, West Java for the construction of one of about 2000 junior secondary schools to be built in Indonesia over the next three years.

The AusAID funded, Cardno Acil managed Basic Education Program will support the construction or expansion of schools in 19 Indonesian provinces. Up to 1225 schools are expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

The construction program will create more than 330,000 new junior secondary school places for 13 to 15 year olds, targeting children from poor and remote areas.

Local people will build the schools using locally supplied materials. The school sites have been selected based on an assessment of unmet demand, enrolment rates and community involvement.

Australia is supporting education in Indonesia recognising it can have an enormously positive impact on the quality of people's lives.

To enhance the people linkages, the Basic Education Program will be supported by a 'sister school' arrangement, to aid positive exchanges between Australian and Indonesian school communities.

The implementing agencies are the Indonesian Ministries of Education and Religious Affairs.

