



Published on The Jakarta Post (<http://www.thejakartapost.com>)

## Inmates given conflict management training course in Tangerang

The Jakarta Post | Wed, 06/02/2010 11:11 PM | Jakarta

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Abdul Rouf, 35, a terrorist serving a 16 year-jail term for the Bali Bombing case I, testified that he could understand more the differences of other people around him after following Conflict Management Training (CMT).

“This is the third day of a five-day training course I am following here. The result is very good. I can understand more about other inmates, the differences among us here,” he told The Jakarta Post at the Tangerang Adults Penitentiary on Tuesday.

Abdul and fellow terrorist Andri in the Bali Bombing case I who seldom smiled before joining the training were transferred from Denpasar Penitentiary to Tangerang last year.

Similarly, Edi Purnaman, 35, a former civil servant at the South Jakarta transportation and communication agency, said that the training had really opened his mind to and his view point of other people.

“I can also manage my emotion nows,” he said.

Edi, a resident of Jurumudi subdistrict, Tangerrang municipality, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for in a household crime and has served three years in the prison.

The training was organized by the Search for Common Ground, an international NGO focusing its program and activity on conflict management in cooperation with the Correctional Institution Directorate, the Jakarta Legal Aids Institute (LBH) and Prasasti Perdamaian Foundation.

The training was divided into two groups with the first one being earmarked for 25 inmates and the other group officers who daily have direct contact with inmates at five correctional institutions in Tangerang.

“The 25 inmates are those who were convicted for drugs offenses, murder, violence and corruption,” Agus Nahrowi, Search for Common Ground Indonesia’s senior program officer, said.

Akuang alias Iwan Samin, convicted for 20 years for possessing 1 ton of crystal methamphetamine (shabu-shabu) in Teluknaga, Tangerang regency, was among the trainees.

He said the core of the training was how to make inmates and prison officers able to manage conflict and transform them from destructive to constructive, communicative and effective.

He said there were three principles emphasized during the training. They are empowerment, positive choices and humanizing others.

The training was presented in various games such as the "ankle walk", role plays focusing on building negotiation skills and a series of interactive discussions.

“From the evaluation and review of similar training we have conducted at six correctional institutions, inmates’ self confidence improves much and they realize they can make positive choices when they face conflict,’ Agus added.

Toro Wiyarto, head of data and information department at the Correctional Directorate, said that the directorate began conducting conflict management training for inmates and prison officers in 2007.

“As of today, we have given such training to inmates at six correctional institutions and this kind of training will also be held at other prisons across the country regularly,” he added.

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