



Building Demand - What Works For Studies of Asia

Building Demand: providing students with purpose

Illawarra Sports High School: *Bagus! Beyond Berkeley*

Illawarra Sports High School is located at Berkeley, New South Wales. The school has begun the process of reviewing the Human Society and Environment (HSIE) curriculum for Years 7–10, with the aim of producing Asia literate students who can be active participants in the world of work in local, national and international contexts.

Bagus! Beyond Berkeley

The school has received a Becoming Asia Literate Grants to Schools (BALGS) grant and the curriculum review process is continuing with that support. The project name is *Bagus! Beyond Berkeley*.

The project team consists of the principal, deputy principal, head teacher welfare, head teacher HSIE, Aboriginal education co-ordinator, HSIE classroom teachers and parent representatives. It meets weekly to monitor progress and releases teachers where necessary for professional learning and to work on the curriculum re-design.

The acquisition of authentic Asia-literate teaching resources is also an important part of the project.

The major focus, however, is on the language and culture of Indonesia. The project team is working in particular on stimulating student demand for studies of Asia and Indonesian language, which will be introduced at Illawarra Sports High School in 2014.

The deputy principal said:

'We will be building within our students an enhanced social, economic, political and cultural capacity to develop an improved understanding and more harmonious and constructive relations with Indonesian people.'

As a way of demonstrating to students the wider applicability of their learning, and showing them purposes for it, networks are being developed with the University of Wollongong and community Indonesian organisations. As well, a sister-school partnership is planned. These initiatives will help to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Bagus! Beyond Berkeley:
A systematic approach to creating student demand for Indonesian

Illawarra Sports High School's *Bagus! Beyond Berkeley* project is systematically renewing its curriculum to orient it to studies of Asia. A number of approaches to stimulating student demand are being taken in advance of the introduction of Indonesian language in 2014.



'We will be building within our students an enhanced social, economic, political and cultural capacity to develop an improved understanding and more harmonious and constructive relations with Indonesian people.'

Deputy Principal,
Illawarra Sports High School, NSW

About AEF

The Asia Education Foundation provides teachers, education leaders and school communities with innovative programs, curriculum resources and networks to support the achievement of Asia literacy for every young Australian.

AEF is a joint activity of Asialink at the University of Melbourne and Education Services Australia. It receives core funding from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

AEF leverages funding to support Asia literacy in Australian schools from a broad range of government, philanthropic and corporate partners in Australia and Asia.

Progress to date

The BALGS grant is recent but progress to date is good. The short video accompanying this article is just one example of awareness and demand-stimulating activities taking place with students. It is a project of the Indonesian Students Association at the University of Wollongong and a good example of the value of the networks being created.

As well, a framework has been established for evaluation in the longer term:

- >> the number of students who elect to study Indonesian in 2014 will be a direct measure of the success of the project;
- >> formal and informal assessment in HSIE in Years 7 - 10 will reveal the extent to which students demonstrate knowledge about contemporary and traditional Asia, and develop skills and attitudes towards what they learn;
- >> formal assessment will also be used to measure the extent to which students understand how increasing cultural diversity (through Asian immigration, tourism, investment and trade) has influenced Australian society and culture;
- >> teacher surveys will determine how confident teachers of HSIE are in their delivery of Asia-literate programs;
- >> surveys of community organisations, parents and the University of Wollongong will address the extent to which those outside the school boundaries support the outcomes of the project.

Conclusion

Illawarra Sports High School is an example of a school taking a systematic approach to curriculum change in relation to studies of Asia and the introduction of an Asian language. It is taking seriously its responsibility to create demand among students (particularly for Indonesian language), while giving its new language program the very best chance of success.



Related links

- >> Becoming Asia Literate: Grants to Schools <http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/balgs>

Contact Asia Education Foundation P: +61 3 8344 4800 E: aef-support@asialink.unimelb.edu.au