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Indonesia: Right to Information Training Manual Unveiled

As part of an ongoing programme to promote the right to information (RTI) in Indonesia, the Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) and the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL) today released a *Training Manual for Public Bodies on Implementing Law 14 of 2008 Regarding Openness in Public Bodies*. The Manual has already been used to conduct various training sessions for public officials, for example in Jakarta and the Indonesian province of Banten.

"The Manual is an invaluable resource both for conducting training courses and as a reference tool for officials tasked with implementing the RTI law," said Toby Mendel, Executive Director of CLD. *"Although it was specifically designed for use in Indonesia, it could easily be adapted for other contexts."*

The Manual offers practical instructions on how to fulfil key RTI responsibilities, including processing requests for information, categorising and managing information, applying exceptions, resolving disputes over information disclosure and developing a longer-term action plan for implementation activities. It also offers background on key conceptual issues such as the importance of transparency to democratic accountability and the benefits that openness brings. In its essence, the Manual provides a useful roadmap for officials tasked with implementing Indonesia's RTI law.

"This Manual contains a full discussion of the legal obligations that flow from Law 14 of 2008." said Dessy Eko Prayitno, Researcher with ICEL. *"We look forward to using this tool to further promote the right to information in Indonesia."*

The Manual is available, in English and Bahasa Indonesia, at: <http://www.law-democracy.org/live/indonesia-right-to-information-training-manual-unveiled/>.

More information on CLD's work in Indonesia is available at: <http://www.law-democracy.org/live/projects/rti-in-indonesia/>.

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