

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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# 1 National situation

The SBY [President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono] administration, which has been stable and steadfast, has created a favorable climate of investment and economic growth. However, the administration has not been known to have the courage of entertain sensitive issues. Most glaring example of playing safe was the standpoint on the ban on the Ahmadiyah sect. Many Muslim groups were clamoring to have this sect banned because they it deviates from proper religious teachings. At the end, the government stopped short of an outright ban; but demanded that the sect stop all activities connected with worship. This lack of vision and courage has also plagued the promotion of LGBT rights.

2008 can be remembered as the Year of Pornography and increasing curbing of sexuality. After the opposition to the first draft of the Anti Pornography & Porno-action Bill succeeded in tabling the issue in 2006, it looked as if it would take a long time to get enough momentum. Indeed, during 2007 we did not hear anything. But by mid 2008 the Drafting Commission came with a new draft which is now called the Pornography Bill. Despite substantial changes with the original draft, there remain more than enough discriminatory elements in the new draft; for instance, in the explanatory paragraph no. 4, the definition of deviant sexual intercourse includes oral and anal sex, plus gay and lesbian sex [in par with bestial sex and necrophilia].

The same social groups as in the previous round remained unanimously opposed to the new bill and launched a new campaign to stop it from being passed [see below]. Signature campaigns, public discussions and press statements were held and duly reported in the newspapers. At the end the alliance held a demonstration. But none of this could not hide the fact that the pro-bill groups [Muslim mass organizations] were even more vocal this time.

This civilian coalition ran parallel with the coalition of local governments that also opposed to the bill, such as the provinces of Bali, Papua, NTT and North Sulawesi. They feel that the bill was aimed at them having a majority non-Muslim population. Even though the bill provides for exceptions for local, traditional cultural expressions and modern art, the wordings implies that those cultural expressions are considered intrinsically pornographic but should be exempt only for the sake of national unity. A far cry from the original tenets of honoring diversity and pluralism as enshrined in the constitution.

In the meantime, the battle raged on in the parliament as well, with PDIP and PDS rejecting the bill and even walking out of discussions. Their argument was that the bill was being rushed so that crucial parts of the text could not be debated in an atmosphere of reasoning. Indeed, the big idea behind the rush was for the Muslim parties to be able to present this bill as a Ramadhan gift to their constituency. Due to the walkout, the Drafting Commission caved and promised socialization rounds through 4 provinces and more time to hear the voices of the opponents. So PDIP and PDS came back to the sessions. But the battle lines had been drawn firmly and no more concessions were given by the proponents of the bill.

Finally, on 28 October, the bill was tabled without any changes for voting in the parliament. Prior to the voting session the entire fraction of PDIP and PDS, plus 2 members of GOLKAR, walked out from the room. Outside, PDIP spoke with the press, declaring that one of the reasons why PDIP rejected the bill was because it was discriminatory against LGBT [see below]. They also said that there were numerous procedural missteps made, so that PDIP could not warrant the viability of such a law. Nonetheless, the bill was passed into law on

October 30. It was subsequently signed by the president whereupon it got officially the title Law No. 44/2008.

Law makers have mostly the 2009 general elections on their minds; they are only interested in pushing through the bills they have a special interest in that have not been finalized. There is a huge backlog of pending bills that are waiting to be deliberated upon. There is an increasing frustration of the poor performance of the Parliament or Legislative Assembly (DPR-RI). A good example of this was this pornography bill. Besides, law makers are increasingly busy jockeying for positions in the next elections and raising money for their campaigns.

The one thing that will stand out as a defining event for LGBT people is the case of Ryan. His real name is Verry Idham Henyansyah, but he became better known as ‘Ryan the butcher of Jombang’. His arrest was initially linked to a mutilated body found in a deserted field in Jakarta. His confessions soon led to the discovery of 10 more bodies buried in the backyard of his parents’ home in Jombang. Before long, the press started to link his sadistic acts with him being an overly jealous gay. Discussion erupted whether all gays are like that. Psychologists and criminologists were asked about their opinion; some were outright homophobic, others not. Ultra-conservative Muslims were clamoring that gay activities and gatherings should be curbed. The police eventually made some raids to gay discos in Jakarta, while other places temporarily closed down. Only after it became more and more clear that Ryan’s motives to murder his victims were primarily to grab their possessions, did the stigmatization by the press die down. But the damage had been done; the negative image of sadistic gays would not be erased for a long time.

Related to the case of Ryan was the discovery that the police of Jombang had committed a grave error in another murder case; a murder victim was misidentified and the wrong persons arrested and charged with the murder. Two of the three suspects were already sentenced before the error was proven. The miscarriage of justice proves that the police still uses torture to extract (false) confessions and initially did not bother to use DNA tests to identify the victim.

Overall, the human rights situation in general remained static; the culture of impunity is as strong as ever. This is proven by the trial of the alleged mastermind of the murder of Munir, ex-Gen. Muchdi, and his subsequent acquittal. This could happen because all key witnesses broke their promise to testify without clear reasons. For LGBT matters, the culture of impunity is also apparent in the cases of Hartoyo and Elly Susana, whereby the involvement of law enforcers was suspected [see below].

## **2 Arus Pelangi Activities**

In the third year of Arus Pelangi’s existence it has worked to maintain its strong stance in the defense of LGBT rights. It was guided by the strategy to increase the visibility of LGBT and their issues in the minds of the general public and the government. Another strategy was to maintain strong ties with and build new alliances with other civil society groups/ organizations, in particular human rights organizations.

## **2.1 Public Discussions**

### **2.1.1 Public Discussion on Islam and homosexuality**

The objective of public discussions is to bring certain sensitive issues to the attention of the public. With this in mind, Arus Pelangi and its members organized a public discussion [28 March 2008] on one of the most contentious issues concerning homosexuality: the various views of Islamic scholars on this matter. Speakers from opposing Moslem views were given the opportunity to speak<sup>1</sup>. The representatives from the Indonesian Council of Ulama [MUI] and from the right-wing Hizbut Tahrir [HTI] were clear in their condemnation of homosexuals. Other speakers from various research institutes, such as Musdah Mulia, et al. were more positive in their interpretation of the Quran with regard to homosexuality. Especially Musdah was outspoken in her speech that the blessings of Islam should be extended to all creatures, including LGBT. This debate which was held in a small venue and was only attended by around 30 people, would not have had much impact if it were not reported in a few newspapers. A polemic erupted and continued in the subsequent weeks and Musdah received numerous condemnations and threats for her defense of LGBT rights. Fortunately, she is a strong woman and her courage was eventually rewarded with the prestigious Yap Thiam Hien Human Rights Award in December 2008.

### **2.1.2 Book Launching and Discussion**

This book is the result of a preliminary study on the level of rights violations against LGBT. Early 2008 a training course on human rights investigation was conducted in Jakarta; 20 LGBT participants from Makassar, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Purwokerto, Sukabumi and Jakarta took part in the training. After the training the participants started to collect data on cases of human rights violations against LGBT at the local level. Around 13 cases were eventually selected to be incorporated in the book "*Jadi, kamu tak merasa bersalah!? Studi Kasus Diskriminasi dan Kekerasan terhadap LGBT*"<sup>2</sup>. They represent a broad range of cases of discrimination and violence against LGBT. The book includes cases ranging from minor harassments to homicides. In all cases the investigators tried to determine the level of resolve from the victims to seek justice as well as the various attitudes of law enforcers towards each case.

This book was officially launched in September 2008 at the National Human Rights Commission. Unfortunately, other events took place in the same building so that there was less attendance than expected. Yet, it was said that the book is groundbreaking in its theme and approach.

## **2.2 Advocacy**

### **2.2.1 Casuistic Advocacy**

#### **2.2.1.1 Hartoyo**

This torture and sexual harassment case originated from early 2007. An initial international urgent appeal resulted in numerous letters sent to the Indonesian government. Indonesia was

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/03/27/islam-039recognizes-homosexuality039.html>

<sup>2</sup> "So, you don't think you're wrong!? A Case Study on Discrimination Violence against LGBT"

put on the spotlight, with various UN special rapporteurs mentioning the case of Hartoyo, who was tortured by the police of Banda Aceh because he was gay. The National Commission on Human Rights reminded several times the Police Force of Banda Aceh to take legal action against the perpetrators. The reason given for the delay was always that the other witness/victim still needed to be interviewed, but he was still missing. It seemed that international pressure finally wore down the resistance of police of Banda Aceh. In October 2008, a trial against four suspects was scheduled; Hartoyo was hurriedly summoned to Banda Aceh as a witness. He went there alone, without legal counsel.

The trial took place on 8 October and from the very start various anomalies could be detected. First, the charge was mysteriously downgraded from a criminal charge to a minor offense. Secondly, the police investigator acted as the prosecutor himself and thirdly, there was only one judge instead of the usual three. The judge started lecturing on Hartoyo's 'sinful' behavior instead of showing compassion for the victim. He literally forced Hartoyo to forgive the suspects who already pleaded guilty. Then, the verdict came: three months probation with no prison sentence since they are much needed personnel by the state, according to the judge.

Needless to say that Hartoyo was indignant about the whole farce, but he felt helpless because he had no legal counsel. When he came back in Jakarta, a new coalition, including Arus Pelangi, was formed to get the trial overturned. A legal complaint was submitted at the Judicial Commission in Jakarta; to prove that a miscarriage of justice had taken place, a video recording of the trial was included. With the help of Arus Pelangi, a new international urgent appeal was mounted. The Judicial Commission has requested the Banda Aceh City Court to submit the proceedings of the trial; though this has not yet produced any results.

### **2.2.1.2 Elly Susana**

This case started in November 2007. Elly Susana drowned in a canal during the a raid by the Satpol PP, the public order units of the city government, at the hang-out place of sex workers [women and trans-people], Taman Lawang, Jakarta. A few were arrested, many were beaten, most others escaped by running away or jumping into the nearby canal; stands were burned. This is how the law enforcement usually deals with prostitution. But in the panic of the moment, there were no clear witnesses to what happened to Elly Susana, trans-person who has her own beauty salon and was not known to be a sex worker. She actually went there to invite other trans-people for an upcoming gathering. But in the eyes of the Satpol PP, every 'waria' (Indonesian slang for transsexuals) found there must be a sex worker. No witnesses saw how she fell in the canal, but one thing was known of her: she could not swim. The following day, her body was found drifting in the water many kilometers from the crime scene.

Arus Pelangi arranged her autopsy, burial, looking for witnesses, made an affidavit for the local police and submitted a report to the National Commission on Human Rights. Arus Pelangi also organized a demonstration in front of the City Hall demanding an explanation for the brutality of Satpol PP. The usual reaction so far is complete denial of the incident. Until now, the local police and the National Commission on Human Rights have been very cooperative. But not so the Satpol PP, who denied that they had conducted a raid on that night. So far, Arus Pelangi has refrained from staging an international appeal to get the case out of the present deadlock, but it seems that now is the time.

### **2.2.1.3 Ryan of Jombang**

The murder and mutilation of Heri Santoso (40 yrs) in Jakarta in July 2008 has drawn much public attention. When arrested, the murder suspect, Verry Idam Henyansyah (30 yrs), better known as Ryan, first acknowledged killing Heri out of jealousy. He eventually confessed to the murder of at least 10 other persons, all buried in his parental house in Jombang. The media frenzy reached its peak when the bodies of the victims were exhumed one by one. Being a serial killer and admittedly gay soon gave way to the wildest speculations whether gays are more prone to crime and cruelty. The media was quick to exploit the sentiments of the masses by blowing up this ‘connection’ to the extreme; a whole battery of criminologists, psychologists, sexologists were paraded in TV talkshows and/or interviewed by newspaper reporters. They also tried to approach the gay communities for comments, but most of them declined. Arus Pelangi was one of the few that dared to speak out on behalf of the LGBT communities<sup>3</sup>; several calls from journalists came daily requesting interviews<sup>4</sup>. Arus Pelangi had to assign its staff shifts to face the journalists or go to TV stations for a talkshow. Suddenly Arus Pelangi got plenty of airtime and it became a national icon. During that time, applications to become a member flooded in.

Meanwhile the massive stigmatization of gays was taking its effects in the public mind; many religious leaders clamored for the curbing of gay activities. Those public exhortations apparently made the police feel pressured to do something:

On August 4, the tabloid “Nonstop” reported that the police raided a well-known gay disco “Moonlight” in Jakarta on Saturday night [rather August 4; 2 a.m.], where it allegedly arrested 100 gays. The official reason was to look for people who knew Ryan. In reality, no arrests were made that night; the management and Arus Pelangi staff who happened to be there, were able to persuade the 30-men strong police team that there was no need to do massive arrests if they were just looking for such information. In the end, the police just search the audience for drugs; they found some ‘ecstasy’ already thrown on the ground. Nonetheless, such blown up stories are typical for sensation-hungry tabloids such as “Nonstop”; this time they went too far by reporting a complete lie.

### **2.2.1.4 Michelle Saraswati**

Michelle's is a very different case. She went to USA as a gay man to find work as an architect. While overstaying she started to change her gender to become a woman. She was eventually caught as an illegal alien, but then applied for asylum on the grounds that she would suffer terribly if she had to build a new life in Indonesia as a transsexual; a world she had never known when still in Indonesia. Her case was brought before the immigration court in San Francisco. To win her case she badly needed an expert witness on Indonesian transsexuals. Of all the Indonesian LGBT organizations approached by Michelle’s lawyer, only Arus Pelangi was willing to come forward as an expert. On the trial day, July 7, a phone connection was established between San Francisco and Jakarta and King Oey answered questions from the judge, the prosecutor and the lawyer for more than an hour on behalf of Arus Pelangi. The judge concluded that there was indeed a strong probability that Michelle would be harmed by being sent back to Indonesia, and she was granted asylum in the U.S.<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/07/25/gay-rights-groups-slam-media-over-bias.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fridae.com/newsfeatures/article.php?articleid=2292&viewarticle=1>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/08/10/us-grants-asylum-indonesian-transgender-case.html>

### **2.2.1.5 Other cases**

There have been many other cases of violence and discrimination against LGBT that took place in 2008. But Arus Pelangi lacked the resources and time to attend to all of them. Some were resolved with the help of other organizations, other were duly processed by the law enforcement, but there also cases that have not been handled at all.

### **2.2.2 Legal Reform**

Monitoring the drafting new bills and holding (public) discussions remain the best opportunity to remain active and relevant in policy advocacy without having to invest too much. The danger is that when the stakes are already fixed or the process is too advanced, limited finances make it impossible to intervene. Bills that have already passed into law require other means and more resources than usual. So far, Arus Pelangi has mostly to stage 'negative' campaigns, i.e. campaigning against bills that are discriminatory against LGBT. Positive campaigning, on the other hand, needs much more efforts and resources that are not yet available.

#### **2.2.2.1 Pornography Bill**

In the fights against the new Pornography Bill Arus Pelangi joined the *Aliansi Masyarakat Sipil Menolak Pengesahan RUUP* (Civilian Coalition against the Pornography Bill). Signature campaign was launched by Arus Pelangi. The coalition held a public discussion in the form of Fit-and-proper Test on 19 September 2008 at the Jakarta Media Centre. It was attended by hundreds of human rights activists, artists, cultural minorities etc. and press statements and interviews were made. Surprisingly, the LGBT issue got much attention and coverage in the newspapers and TV.

Meanwhile, Arus Pelangi worked intensively with the few allies in the parliament, coordinating each other moves, encouraging each other in the face of so much lambasting and insults from those who eagerly wanted the bill passed. Indeed, the psychological war was at its highest during the weeks leading to the approval of the bill. Though the battle was lost, LGBT scored a small victory when the PDIP openly declared its opposition because of the discriminatory paragraphs against LGBT; the first time a political party had openly supported LGBT rights.

After the law was passed, Arus Pelangi held a discussion with its constituency to measure people's readiness to go on fighting the bill<sup>6</sup>. The audience of 40 persons unanimously decided to support the move to bring a Judicial Review of the law to the Constitutional Court. Again, a civilian coalition was formed to prepare the arguments and other materials. This coalition is led by YLBHI, with Arus Pelangi as one of its most active and constructive members. The Judicial Review petition will be submitted to the Constitutional Court by February 2009.

#### **2.2.2.2 Discriminatory Local Bylaws**

This is a campaign item from previous years. This year not much has been done, basically because the ball lies now in the court of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. They have to come up with a procedure how to correct local bylaws that contradict national laws and the constitution, even when they have been duly passed.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/life-times/article/2368.html>

The only activity endeavored was a workshop on the contentious Palembang bylaw attended by local academics and law scholars. It was held in Palembang, South Sumatra, in March 2008. The conclusion of this examination was that, by not having consulted law experts beforehand, the Palembang law makers have committed serious errors in drafting the bylaw.

### **2.2.2.3 Anti Discrimination Law**

The bill on eradication of discrimination based on race and ethnicity had been on the table since 2006. This bill was passed in the same time that the Pornography Bill was heatedly debated. A lobby group financed by ethnic Chinese was quietly pulling the strings behind the scene. It was a pity that this bill could not be expanded to include other (minority) groups such as LGBT, diffabled, religious minorities, drug users etc.

### **2.2.2.4 The new Criminal Code bill**

Decades have passed, but a new bill to replace the old ‘Colonial Dutch’ Criminal Code is still not finished. There have been attempts to insert criminalization of homosexuality in various ways. Careful monitoring of the progress is needed to prevent this from happening.

Related to this is the revision of the Criminal Procedure bill [KUHAP] which has been debated in the past four years. Of particular interest to Arus Pelangi is the protection of suspects and witnesses, especially if it concerns LGBT persons. To combat domestic violence, the police force is creating ‘special service rooms’ [RPK] at the provincial level; these rooms are provided for women and children [victims of domestic violence] and run by specialist personnel. Arus Pelangi’s drive is to have those RPKs be used for LGBT victims as well.

A coalition composed of LBH-APIK, LBH-M, ILRC, HUMA, LBH-Mawar Sharon, LBH Jakarta etc. is monitoring the proceeding of the deliberations by the preparatory team. Aside from raising the voice of the civil society, Arus Pelangi also keeps in contact with pro LGBT law makers, including PDIP.

## **2.3 Network Activities**

### **2.3.1 ILGA**

Arus Pelangi became a member of ILGA in 2006. In 2008, Arus Pelangi took part in the ILGA-Asia conference in Chiangmai, Thailand. The election of a regional board resulted in the election of three Indonesian delegates, including Arus Pelangi, to sit in the board<sup>7</sup>.

Arus Pelangi also attended the ILGA World conference in Vienna, Austria, November 2008. Among others, Arus Pelangi took part in the caucus for Muslim majority countries as well as the Charing Pool. The conference was energizing because of its diversity.

In the aftermath of the Vienna conference, ILGA Secretariat appealed to its members to lobby their respective governments to support the upcoming statement at the 36<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly regarding the protection of human rights for people with a different sexual orientation and gender identity. Arus Pelangi did its best to lobby with MPs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but because Indonesia is a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] the government was not willing to risk supporting this issue. However,

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fridae.com/newsfeatures/article.php?articleid=2157&viewarticle=1>

indirectly through its contacts, Arus Pelangi's efforts did garner support for the statement from the government of Timor Leste. Thus, Timor Leste became one of the 4 Asian countries, among 66 countries, to sign the statement on the 18 December 2008.

### **2.3.2 National LGBTIQ Forum**

The initiative for this forum came from the Global Fund for Women [GFW], USA, which has a strong interest in the Indonesian LGBT movement. Arus Pelangi had a prominent role in the discussion and identifying issues. This was an unintended continuation of the workshop held by Hivos in Bogor, where four LGBT partners developed a platform for LGBT advocacy. A few concrete initiatives have sprung up in the wake of this forum, like IDAHO celebrations and the launching of the Yogyakarta Principles [see below].

### **2.3.3 Labor Day**

It has now become more or less a tradition that on Labor Day the demonstrations would not be complete without a contingent of trans-people organized by Arus Pelangi. The situation for trans-people has not changed much; they are still subject of pressure to conform to societal standards in order to work in the formal sector.

### **2.3.4 IDAHO**

One of the activities included in the joint platform was to organize in a coordinated way the celebration of IDAHO. Groups from four different cities signed up to stage a series of activities simultaneously. Each city had its own coordination point. The activities included a photo exhibition, film screening, public discussions, street actions, and charity for the poor. Especially, in Makassar, Yogyakarta<sup>8</sup> and Jakarta those events resulted in lots of media coverage.

### **2.3.5 International Transgender Day**

For lack of funds, Arus Pelangi was limited to arranging a series of radio talkshows on 68H Radio with several trans-people talking about their plight and the importance of the Transgender Day. There were quite a few reactions from listeners; mostly positive.

### **2.3.6 Launching of the Yogyakarta Principles**

This campaign was spearheaded by IGLHRC to take place in three countries: the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. In this occasion, IGLHRC allied with lesbian organizations although other LGBT organizations were ultimately included in the organizing committee. Under the coordination of Ardhanary Institute, a women LBT organization, the activities that included a public discussion, street action and banner launching, took place on the Human Rights Day [10 December] in Yogyakarta. Arus Pelangi played a modest supporting role in this event. The event was attended by more than 100 people from all over Indonesia and a few delegates from Thailand and the Philippines.

## **2.4 Organizing (local) LGBT groups**

On this field Arus Pelangi scored less this year; there have been too many adverse factors both internal and external. Arus Pelangi Banyumas in Purwokerto has broken down due to mismanagement and internal conflicts. Arus Pelangi tried to intervene and resolve their

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/06/01/bags-friendship-people-us.html>

<http://old.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20080601.F02>

conflicts, but the efforts required to do it effectively went beyond the capacity of Arus Pelangi staff.

On the other hand, PLU-Satu Hati in Yogyakarta and Komunitas Sehati in Makassar has grown in strength; they have shown to be capable to organize successfully various activities on their own. They have strengthened their internal coherence among their members<sup>9</sup>.

Forum Komunikasi Waria Indonesia [FKWI], is an incipient transgender [MTF] network that has been struggling to grow towards a viable organization. Together with FKWI and other transgender organizations Arus Pelangi has been working the hold the first national meeting for trans-people. Unfortunately, it could not materialize in 2008; instead, early 2009.

## **2.5 Education on LGBT issues**

In 2007, two Swedish NGOs [RFSU and RFSL] organized an international training course on “LGBT and Human Rights” with participants from 8 Asian countries. Arus Pelangi was the only Indonesian LGBT participant that year. The follow-up training took place in Bali in early June 2008. Because of the choice of venue, Arus Pelangi became the logistical liaison of the Swedish organizers and was given a prominent role in the content of the follow-up training<sup>10</sup>. Overall, this training has expanded the international network of Arus Pelangi as well as given a considerable insight on international advocacy based on experiences from other Asian countries. The ties with one of the organizers, RFSL, have also become very strong.

Arus Pelangi is also actively involved in educating other groups; mostly directed to its LGBT members both in Jakarta and outside. This year Arus Pelangi conducted two trainings: on Basic Human Rights and on Organizational Strengthening. They were attended by 20-30 participants, mostly from outside Jakarta.

More informal ways on education are equally important strengthen LGBT people in their process of coming-out and reaching out to others. They take the form of regular discussions and movie screenings. 30-40 persons attend those events on average. New faces appeared at every event, indicating that mutual friends are important sources of new members for Arus Pelangi.

A special form of education is the LGBT hotline service run by Arus Pelangi, which was started in 2007. Though the numbers of callers have steadily declined, the need is still obvious. The hotline number also attracted the attention of people who do not support LGBT rights and are intentionally insulting or combative on the phone.

## **2.6 Organizational strengthening**

Active membership is considered the cornerstone of Arus Pelangi. In February, Arus Pelangi launched a national meeting to officially recognize the registered members with ID cards [around 350 members] and an overview of the activities of Arus Pelangi. The meeting was attended by 80 participants; less than expected because of bad weather. The meeting also resulted in an agreement to simultaneously launch activities to commemorate IDAHO in four cities.

Membership management has developed through a database of members. Members in Jakarta are usually invited to events and activities of Arus Pelangi. A copy of “OutZine” is sent to

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/life-times/article/3915.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/06/09/asian-gay-transgender-groups-fight-their-rights.html>

them as well. Towards the end of 2008, Arus Pelangi started a pilot project: ‘Hobby Clubs’ including “Arus Pelangi Dancers”, and “Arus Pelangi Actors”.

At the secretariat, Arus Pelangi experienced a decrease of staff during 2008. This is due partly to decreasing income through project funding, partly because of differences in work ethics and interests. The shortage of staff has affected its education, organizing and public relations activities the most.

### **3 Conclusions**

In 2008 Arus Pelangi has remained strong in its advocacy and campaign work as well as in public relations. It has underperformed in the field of organizing and education. Internationally, Arus Pelangi has gained a solid reputation as a strong advocate of Indonesian LGBT.

### **4 Issues for the future**

- ASEAN Human Rights Body
- Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure bills
- Judicial Review of the Pornography Law
- General elections and Presidential elections
- Discrimination at workplace
- Capacity building
- 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly
- Membership management

