PRESIDENT’S REPORT
ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The United States – Indonesia Society

DECEMBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2020
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Gala Dinner

USINDO’s 2020 Gala Dinner “U.S.-Indonesia Economic Relations 2020: Seizing the Potential for Trade and Investment”
February 13, 2020, Washington D.C.

Just before the pandemic hit the U.S., USINDO hosted 2020 Gala Dinner with the theme “U.S.-Indonesia Economic Relations 2020: Seizing the Potential for Trade and Investment.” The gala sought to explore on how the U.S. and Indonesia could increase bilateral trade investment over the next five years.

We had the pleasure to welcome a terrific group of Indonesian speakers led by Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan, the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker. Featured Indonesian speakers were Information Technology Johnny G. Plate and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahendra Siregar, all newly appointed in the 2019 cabinet.

We also had a superb group of featured US Government speakers: Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth Keith Krach; Congressman Ted Yoho who supported the creation of the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC); and Adam Boehler, the DFC’s new CEO, who visited Indonesia in January 2020 to discuss DFC plans for increasing US investment.

Watch the Videos here.
View the Photo Gallery here.
USINDO Special Events

1. Virtual Welcome Event in Washington D.C. in Honor of Indonesia’s New Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Muhammad Lutfi
   September 22, 2020

USINDO hosted a highly successful Virtual Welcome Event for Indonesia’s new Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Muhammad Lutfi, on September 22. After a welcoming by USINDO, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David R. Stilwell welcomed Ambassador Lutfi, introduced the many U.S. government agencies present, and gave policy remarks, including noting that a “prosperous, vibrant, and pluralistic Indonesia is a source of great stability for the broader region.”

Ambassador Lutfi communicated to the large audience his view of how Indonesia needs to grow its economy over the next 10-15 years to achieve its potential to be a globally significant developed country. He saw key factors as (1) investment in infrastructure, combined with a supportive investment climate; making Indonesia an important investment destination; (2) expansion of trade, including increases in exports as a percentage of GDP, balanced with imports as trade grows, (3) workforce improvement through education; and (4) enhancing health care. He stated he seeks an early resumption of GSP for Indonesia, further ways to expand trade, and to utilize several newly available mechanisms to increase investment. An online audience of 300 participated, demonstrating the keen interest in Indonesia’s new Ambassador to the United States.

Watch the Video here.

2. Exclusive Zoom Discussion with Minister Luhut Pandjaitan and Vice Minister Mahendra Siregar on “Raising and Maintaining US Investment in Indonesia”
   June 11, 2020

Following up the February Dialogue, we started convening small stakeholder discussions with the governments aimed at discussing and making progress on selected sectoral issues. We held a small Zoom discussion June 11 on trade and investment with coordinating Minister Luhut, Vice Minister Mahendra, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David R. Stilwell, a representative of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and interested companies. Future such meetings may take place on specific issues needing action-oriented discussion in a government-private format.
Attendees also included representatives from the U.S. Embassy Jakarta, Chevron, Freeport, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), Boeing, ConocoPhillips, KADIN, Sintesa Group, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Indonesia, Caterpillar Inc, Johnson & Johnson Indonesia, Cardig International, BP, and ExxonMobil.

3. **U.S.-Indonesia “Track 1.5” Economic Strategy Dialogue**
   February 13, 2020 in Washington D.C.

USINDO was pleased to facilitate the first US-Indonesia “Track 1.5” Economic Strategy Dialogue, in cooperation with CSIS, on ways to make further progress on bilateral trade and investment over the next five years. As a “Track 1.5” dialogue, it brought together key representatives of the two governments, corporate leaders, substantive experts, and non-government organization leaders to pool their thoughts on the best way forward. We see our role in facilitating this kind of participatory discussion on U.S.-Indonesia issues as at the core of USINDO’s mission.

The theme of this first dialogue was increasing trade and investment. Indonesian participants were Coordinating Minister Luhut, Trade Minister Suparmanto, Communication and Information Technology Minister Johnny G. Plate, and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mahendra Siregar.

USG officials attended from State, Commerce, the new International Development Finance Corporation, and USTR. USINDO co-chaired the Dialogue with CSIS, who provided an expert moderator on trade.

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

4. **Farewell Reception for the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, H.E. Joseph R. Donovan, Jr.**
   January 28, 2020 in Jakarta

USINDO and AmCham Indonesia hosted a farewell reception for U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, H.E. Joseph R. Donovan, Jr. at Museum Macan. USINDO’s Co-Chair Theo Sambuaga thanked Ambassador Donovan for his contribution and dedication in deepening US-Indonesia relations during his tenure. He also appreciated the support and cooperation of Ambassador Donovan to both USINDO and AmCham in the last three years.

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).
5. **Tribute with Ibu Adiati Siregar to the contribution to USINDO of the late Professor Dr. Arifin Siregar, USINDO Indonesian Co-Chair Emeritus**
   January 28, 2020 in Jakarta

Our Indonesian Co-Chair, Theo L. Sambuaga, hosted a tribute to the late Dr. Arifin Siregar, with the widow of Ibu Adiati Siregar, on January 28, 2020. He presented USINDO’s Resolution of Tribute and Condolence for Dr. Arifin Siregar.
Open Forum and Webinar Series

USINDO regularly conducts public discussion through its Open Forum series to enhance understanding of Indonesia and the United States. The discussions feature distinguished experts, academics, and policymakers, with the aim of providing timely and accurate information in the areas facing both nations. A majority of USINDO’s Open Forums cover political, security and economic issues surrounding U.S.-Indonesia relations. Because of the coronavirus, our Open Forum Series was conducted online. The events in the past year are below in reverse chronological order.

1. **Webinar on “The U.S. 2020 Presidential Election: Outlook, Issues, and Significance for Domestic and Foreign Policy”**
   October 1, 2020

   USINDO held a Special Open Forum on the outlook of the United States Presidential Election, issues and its significance for domestic and foreign policy, featuring two prominent expert speakers.

   **Speakers:**
   
   Casimir A. Yost  
   Senior Fellow at the Institute for Study and Diplomacy, Georgetown University  
   Former Senior Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

   Jonah Blank  
   Senior Political Scientist, RAND Corporation  
   Former Policy Director for South and Southeast Asia, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

   Watch the video of the webinar [here](#).

2. **Webinar on “The Major Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Indonesia and the U.S. in Moderating the Coronavirus Pandemic: How Can Positive Roles be Enhanced and Negative Ones Reduced?”**
   May 7, 2020

   USINDO, in cooperation with the Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism, held a webinar on the crucial role of Indonesian and U.S. religious institutions in combatting the coronavirus. More than 250 people registered.
The webinar featured six top experts:

Katherine Marshall  
Senior Fellow, Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs

Imam Mohamed Magid  
Executive Director, ADAMS Center

Prof. Azyumardi Azra, CBE  
Senior Professor of Islamic History and Culture  
Former rector Syarif Hidayatullah State Foundation

Yenny Wahid  
Executive Director, Wahid Foundation

Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang  
Chair of Advisory Board, Communion of Churches Indonesia

Dr. Siti Ruhaini Dzuhayatin  
Senior Advisor to Deputy V, Executive Office of the Presidential Staff, Republic of Indonesia

Watch a 15-minute video of highlights of the webinar here.  
Watch the full video of the webinar here.

3. Open Forum on “Accelerating the Growth of U.S.-Indonesia Trade and Investment”  
December 13, 2019 in Jakarta

USINDO, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Jakarta and @america, held an open forum to explore key opportunities and challenges to boost economic relations, as well as to grow a free and reciprocal trade and investment between the U.S. and Indonesia. The event featured a panel of three eminent experts:
 Speakers:
Muhammad Lutfi
Former Chairman of BKPM
Former Minister of Trade

Sunny J. Park
Regional Director and Assistant General Counsel for Corporate, External & Legal Affairs, Microsoft Asia Pacific

Douglas Ramage
Managing Director, Bower Group Asia

Watch the Open Forum here.
View the Photo Gallery here.
Education, Capacity Building Programs and Grants

Grant Proposal for Capacity-Building Program in Journalism

In July 2020, USINDO submitted a grant proposal responding to the U.S. Embassy Jakarta’s Public Diplomacy Small Grants Program, which sought proposals in Journalism, among other fields. USINDO partnered with the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism and the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), and is cooperating also with the Indonesian Journalists’ Association (PWI) and Tempo Institute. We proposed a bi-national professional workshop, “Enhancing Indonesian Journalism’s Coverage of Global Issues Affecting Indonesia.”

Grant Proposal for New LPDP-Related Education Initiative

In July 2020, USINDO submitted a grant request to the U.S. Embassy Jakarta Public Diplomacy Small Grants Program to further our initiative in increasing the number of fully funded Indonesians studying in the U.S. under the LPDP program.

We proposed two activities: (1) further building out communication between Indonesia’s Education Endowment Fund (LPDP), U.S. universities, USINDO, and the USG aimed at measurably boosting LPDP utilization and study in the U.S.; (2) implementing a pilot critical thinking and digital literacy training program for LPDP students.

Our proposed project aims to increase the number of Indonesians studying in the U.S. by expanding interaction with U.S. universities keenly interested in utilizing Indonesia’s LPDP Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Legislative Partnership Program

USINDO’s Legislative Partnership Program (LPP) is a one-week study program in Washington for the DPR’s committee and legislative staff aimed to strengthen their professional legislative management capacity and subject matter expertise. The program would acquaint DPR staff to U.S. Congressional practices on committee and legislative management, the role of professional staff, the use of support such as the Congressional Research Service, legislative drafting and how the U.S. legislative system engages stakeholders for inclusive policymaking. It also includes global substantive energy issues.

LPP was first conducted in March 2014 with DPR’s Committee I of Foreign Affairs and Defense. The second program was held in November 2016 with Committee XI of Finance, Banking Trade and National Development.
The third LPP will be for select expert staff from DPR’s Committee VII. **Energy, Mineral Resources, Research and Technology, and the Environment.** We are planning this program for 2021.

The program will be conducted in partnership with the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), the U.S. House Democracy Partnership, and the Secretary General of DPR.

For photos of past LPP, please click [here](#).

**Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program**

For the last decade, USINDO in collaboration with the Indonesia Ministry of Foreign Affairs has funded graduate level education of top ranked Indonesian KEMLU officials capable of leadership in foreign affairs, helped their placement at leading universities in the United States. The program has placed 20 junior and one mid-career diplomats at top U.S. graduate programs in international subjects thus far. The current year is being skipped owing to COVID.

**2020-2021 Edward E. Masters Fellow**

In 2019, the Ed Masters Fellows Review Committee approved Ms. Sherley Mega Sandiori as the recipient of 2020-2021 Edward E. Masters Fellowship award, taking into account her testing scores, leadership potential and academic excellence, among others.

Ms. Sandiori will be USINDO’s first Fellow to study at Harvard Law School, where she will pursue her LL.M. She is a foreign officer assigned to the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Her study is scheduled for Fall 2021.

**USINDO’s Planned Professional Fellows Program (PFP)**

This new fellowship program provides American graduate students the opportunity to solve real-world problems through placement in Indonesian industries such as ICT, energy, and environment. USINDO works with US universities to find appropriate students and liaises with Indonesian organizations (business, and later, NGOs) to host fellows. Funded Fellowships were offered in 2020 by Indonesian companies but the program had to be deferred because of the pandemic’s travel restrictions. We plan to have a pilot program in 2021 should health conditions permit.

To finance the program, USINDO will charge a small fee from partner organization. USINDO is also planning to arrange a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with
Indonesia’s Chamber of Commerce (KADIN), to assist us in contacting Indonesian companies.

**Summer Studies Program**

In March 2020, USINDO had nine participants chosen from a total of 17 applicants. However, as U.S. travel to Indonesia was restricted by both governments, we deferred the 2020 program to 2021. The Freeman Foundation, which funds this program together with USINDO matching funds, has agreed to let us carry over their funds to a 2021 program.

This renowned program brings Americans to Indonesia for immersion in Indonesian language, issues, and culture. In its 24th iteration, USINDO is proud to have over 241 Summer Studies alumni across the United States who have provided long term value in expanding the network of people who deepen U.S.-Indonesia relations. Many of our alumni have returned to Indonesia for business, employment or academic research; others have entered careers involving Indonesia or Southeast Asia.

Photos of past USINDO Summer Studies Program are accessible here.

**ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellowship Program**

Since 2008, USINDO has been the in-country program partner to the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and the U.S. Embassy Jakarta in facilitating The Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program (PFP). YSEALI was launched in 2013 as the U.S.’ government’s signature program to strengthen leadership development and partnerships of young Southeast Asian leaders. It is also envisioned to strengthen people-to-people ties between the United States and Southeast Asian young leaders. The PFP component focuses on legislative process and governance for these young political and policy leaders.

As program partner, USINDO supports ACYPL and the U.S. Embassy Jakarta in the outreach, selection and pre-departure administrative processes. Selected fellows participate in a four-week intensive fellowship in the U.S.’ local office with a day-to-day mentoring and guidance from local leader with the view of strengthening their understanding of American governance, politics and legislative processes. Due to COVID-19, the Spring and Fall 2020 programs have been rescheduled. USINDO will continue its support to the program in the future, in coordination with our new program partner American Councils for International Education.

The selected delegates for the 2019 Fall PFP are:

1. **Andry Dewanto**  
   West Nusa Tenggara Chief of Tourism Promotion at Youth, Sumbawa Regency
2. Maidina Rahmawati  
Researcher, Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR)

3. Razi Sabardi  
Senior Associate, Board of Commissioners General Election Commission

The only delegate selected for the 2020 Fall PFP is Nindy Voristya Wanda, Lawyer, Peradi Legal Aid Center Palembang

KEMLU’s Webinar Series on Skills Enhancement for Young Diplomats

USINDO has assisted KEMLU’s Webinar Series on Skill Enhancement for Young Diplomats by providing distinguished expert speakers on relevant international affairs topics. The webinars USINDO facilitated this year are:

November 2020

October 27, 2020

3. “International Cybersecurity Diplomacy” featuring Chris Painter, Former Senior Director of Cyber Policy and Acting Cyber Coordinator, National Security Council  
September 16, 2020

4. “Strategic Management and Leadership for KEMLU’s Senior Diplomats” featuring Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr.  
August 24, 2020

5. “Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Diplomats and Foreign Policy Decision Makers” featuring Professor Robert McMahon, Ralph D. Mershon Distinguished Professor, Ohio State University  
August 14, 2020

July 23, 2020

7. “Crafting Commercial Diplomacy: Lessons Learned and Best Practices from the U.S. Experiences” featuring Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr.  
June 25, 2020
The Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism is an independent, bi-national, non-governmental body to undertake joint programs to share and promote the values of pluralism, diversity and tolerance. It was established in Yogyakarta in August 2016 and was endorsed by President Jokowi and President Obama. The Council consists of a select group of committed non-government leaders from the religious, academic, media, and civil society sectors from Indonesia and the United States.

The Council defined and adopted three priority areas as its focus:

1. Increasing religious understanding, mutual respect, and collaboration;
2. Identifying and fostering positive civic and religious education models that promote analytical thinking and respect; and
3. Empowering civil society to deter violent extremism.

Responding to the coronavirus outbreak, the Council held a webinar on the major role of religious institutions and leaders in Indonesian and the United States in moderating the pandemic in May 2020:

**Webinar on “The Major Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Indonesia and the U.S. in Moderating the Coronavirus Pandemic: How Can Positive Roles be Enhanced and Negative Ones Reduced?”**

May 7, 2020

Please see page 7 for the event’s report.
Online Presence

Website Revamp

We are working to complement our outreach efforts by revamping the USINDO website to a more modern, professional, and user-friendly site. We aim to have the website more easily accessible to everyone so that USINDO's messages and initiatives could come across clear to visitors. The new website is in the stage of design and development, and we expect to launch it by end of the year. Below are some snapshots of the website as being developed.

Figure 1 - Sketch of the top of the homepage
**PROGRAMS**

**Increasing Understanding of Indonesia and the United States**

The world’s second and third largest democracies by population, the United States and Indonesia, are far apart at opposite ends of the world. It is obvious that the level of understanding between each population of each other’s situation and cultural values vary by their scope of work and exposure. Today, they wrestle with similar questions on national values, political security, socio-economic, cultural and religious diversity and democracy, despite their differences. Against that background, USINDO is trying to increase the exposure of Americans to Indonesians condition and Indonesians’ awareness towards America’s affairs, as well as both countries’ relations and outlook through four programs.

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**Open Forums**

**Gala**

**Special Events**

**Facilitative Meetings**

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**Deepening the U.S. - Indonesia Strategic Partnership**

After the meeting between President Obama and President Susilo in October 2015, the United States and Indonesia are two of the largest democratic countries in the world, believed that there is a shared responsibility and an abiding interest to address strategic challenges on the international stage, together as partners. Therefore, to broaden out the “Track I, or non-government Track in U.S.-Indonesia relations — which is a key element for any stronger cooperation on shared strategic interests between the two—USINDO is honored to support the Strategic Partnership through

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**Summer Studies Program**

An intensive 10-week language & culture studies fellowship held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for U.S. university students and recent graduates.

241 alumni since 1996

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Figure 2 - Sketch of the Programs page

Figure 3 - Sketch of the Summer Studies page
Social Media Presence

USINDO is increasing its social media presence, primarily Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. We do this by regularly and more actively sharing USINDO’s programs and activities. We also use social media as a medium to support our partner organizations’ events.

In our latest social media post, we saw increased user engagement, with 300 accounts on Instagram, Facebook with around 140, and LinkedIn with more followers. On Twitter, we find our followers and other organizations frequently engage with us either through their likes and retweets to our post, or mentions of USINDO in their posts related to the U.S.-Indonesia topics/events.

We aim to improve our outreach toward new audiences. Visit USINDO’s Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Flickr, Youtube and Twitter.

A. Instagram

Sample Instagram Post:
USINDO congratulates the Republic and people of Indonesia on the 75th anniversary of Indonesia’s Declaration of Independence. We share your joy on this historic occasion and join you in celebrating Indonesia’s momentous achievements as a nation at this milestone, and in the years to come. Selamat Hari Kemerdekaan!

#indonesiamaju #usindo #dirgahayuindonesia #dirgahayuindonesia75 #17agustus #17agustus2020 #harikemerdekaan

B. Facebook

Sample Facebook Post:
Only less than a week to apply for the 2020 Fall Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program! Join the opportunity to spend 6 weeks working in a full-time placement at US-based government offices, legislatures, or NGOs!

Apply at http://bit.do/acypl2020fall as soon as possible before March 31, 2020. Find out more about the program here https://bit.ly/2CxAQVl. #yseali #professional #fellows #governance #society #usa #indonesia
C. LinkedIn

Sample LinkedIn Post:
USINDO cordially invites you to a Virtual Welcome Event in Washington in Honor of Indonesia's new Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Muhammad Lutfi, on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00-5:45 p.m. ET.

For registration and more information about the event, please click this link http://bit.do/usindoevent.

#usindo #unitedstatesindonesia #permias #k briwashdc #kbridc #kemlu_ri #kemluri #statesdepartment #foreignpolicy #dubesri #dubes #kedubes #indonesia #iloveindonesia #unitedstates #dcevent

D. Flickr

Sample YouTube Video Post:
USINDO's Webinar on Religion and COVID Pandemic - May 7, 2020
USINDO and the Indonesia-US Council of Religion and Pluralism held a bi-national webinar on “The Major Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Indonesia and the United States in Moderating the Coronavirus Pandemic: How Can Positive Roles be Enhanced and Negative Ones Reduced?”
F. Twitter

Sample Twitter Post:
USINDO held a Special Open Forum October 1 on the U.S. Presidential Election: Outlook, Issues, and Significance for Domestic and Foreign Policy, featuring distinguished panelists Casimir A. Yost and Dr. Jonah Blank. Please click http://bit.do/USElectionWebinar to watch the full video.

-- End of President’s Report --
USINDO Staff

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