



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The United States – Indonesia Society

JUNE 2020 – MAY 2021

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USINDO Special Events

1. Virtual Farewell Reception in Honor of Indonesia's Ambassador to the U.S. & Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Muhammad Lutfi March 25, 2021

USINDO hosted a virtual event on March 25 to bid farewell to Indonesia's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Muhammad Lutfi and congratulate him on his new position as Trade Minister.

At this virtual reception attended by an audience of 130, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and concurrently, U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, the Honorable Sung Kim reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to strengthen its bilateral trade and investment ties with Indonesia, emphasizing that robust cooperation with Indonesia is critical for rebuilding a safer and brighter future for the Indo Pacific, and restoring both countries' economies post pandemic.



Ambassador Lutfi shared his views on four consequential global issues. The first is the COVID-19 pandemic and how it requires a cohesive and multi-country mitigation including greater collaboration between Indonesia and the United States. He expressed his optimism in easing tensions with China, the importance of promoting economic growth in the region, and not letting rivalries impede growth.

Ambassador Lutfi said climate change should not be a sticking point in Indonesia-U.S. relations since Indonesia is steadfast in its fight against climate change and deforestation. He shared Indonesia's concerns over the military coup taking place in Myanmar and Indonesia's readiness to support dialogue to settle this issue under the ASEAN framework.

In the Q&A session Ambassador Lutfi explained Indonesia's plan to run its Sovereign Wealth Fund as a world class corporation, the progress of Indonesia's new capital city development, continued efforts to fight COVID-19, and Indonesia's commitment to attract foreign investment including from the U.S.

The virtual event was attended by the U.S. government officials, former U.S. Ambassadors to Indonesia, USINDO corporate and individual members, and the general public.

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

2. Virtual Welcome Reception for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, The Honorable Sung Yong Kim

November 19, 2020

USINDO, AmCham Indonesia and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosted a Virtual Welcome Event for the new U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, The Honorable Sung Y. Kim, on November 19.

Ambassador Kim was warmly welcomed by AmCham Managing Director Lin Neumann, followed with remarks by John Goyer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and David Merrill as President of USINDO. Scott Hanna, Chair of AmCham Indonesia, proceeded to introduce Ambassador Kim to the U.S. and Indonesian audience, who expressed their enthusiasm in supporting the strategic relationship between the two countries.



Ambassador Kim's remarks indicated great optimism for U.S. - Indonesia bilateral relations, as he emphasized capitalizing on its positive momentum following a series of visits by U.S. and Indonesian government officials to discuss cooperation in trade and investment. He believes that through continuous support, friendship, and good guidance, both countries will be able to seize opportunities to further elevate relations with one another.

Finally, President of USINDO David Merrill closed the event with a toast to Ambassador Kim, wishing him success during his tenure in Indonesia.

3. Virtual Welcome Event 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's remarks 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.



Ambassador Muhammad Lutfi and Ibu Bianca Lutfi during the virtual welcome event

Watch the Video [here](#).

4. Exclusive Zoom Discussion with Minister Luhut Pandjaitan and Vice Minister Mahendra Siregar on “Raising and Maintaining U.S. Investment in Indonesia”

June 11, 2020

Following up USINDO “Track 1.5” Economic Strategy Dialogue in February, 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, US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell, a representative of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and interested companies. Future such meetings are planned on specific issues needing action-oriented discussion in a government-private format.

Attendees also included representatives from the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), US Embassy Jakarta, Chevron, Freeport, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), Boeing, BP, ConocoPhillips, KADIN, Sintesa Group, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Indonesia, Caterpillar Inc, Johnson & Johnson Indonesia, Cardig International.

Open Forums/ Webinars

USINDO regularly conducts public discussion through its Open Forum series to generate 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, as well as to allow the public to directly interact with subject matter experts. The majority of USINDO's Open Forums cover political, security and economic issues surrounding U.S.-Indonesia relations, . t.

Planned Webinars:

1. “Indonesia’s Response to Climate Change”, June 9, 2021

On June 9, USINDO will co-host an event with the Stimson Center’s Southeast Asia Forum on Climate Change. This event will explore how decision makers in Indonesia balance both economic and development needs of the country, taking into consideration Indonesia’s vulnerability to climate change, which has become more apparent by extreme weather events and natural disasters.

The discussion will feature Nur Hidayati from WALHI National, Richard Jeo from Conservation International, and Ambassador Dino Patti Djalal from WRI Indonesia. This session will be moderated by USINDO U.S. Co-Chair, Ambassador Robert O. Blake.

2. “Renewable Energy Development in Indonesia and the U.S.”, second half of 2021

We are planning to have a webinar on “Renewable Energy Development in Indonesia and the U.S.” in the second half of 2021. This webinar is a follow-on to the 12-day Legislative Partnership Program with Indonesian Parliament (DPR) Committee VII on Renewable Energy in March-April 2021.

3. “The Role of Women in Politics in Indonesia and the U.S.”, second half of 2021

We are also planning to have a webinar on “The Role of Women in Politics in Indonesia and the U.S.” in the second half of 2021.

4. KEMLU Webinar on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process, second half of 2021

At KEMLU’s invitation, USINDO will provide a distinguished expert speaker to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and peace process, one of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry’s priority issues. This is part of our cooperation with KEMLU in other spheres.

Past Webinars:

5. Webinar on “Indonesia's Foreign Policy Positioning between China and the United States: Enduring Themes, Recent Issues, Outlook in the Post-U.S. Election Environment”

November 12, 2020

USINDO and the Stimson Center’s Southeast Asia Forum held a joint program November 12 on Indonesia’s Foreign Policy Positioning between China and the United States: Enduring Themes, Recent Issues, Outlook in the Post-U.S. Election Environment, featuring distinguished panelists:

Murray Hiebert

Author, *Under Beijing's Shadow: Southeast Asia's China Challenge* and Senior Associate, Southeast Asia Program, CSIS

Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar

Research Professor, Center for Political Studies- Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, The Habibie Center

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



6. 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 U.S. Presidential Election 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](#).

Education, Capacity Building Programs and Grants

Proposal for Five-year USAID Project to Increase the Number of Indonesian Students Receiving LPDP Scholarships to U.S. Graduate Programs

In May 2021, USINDO joined with a local partner organization to respond to a USAID competition for a program of collaboration with the large GOI-endowed LPDP overseas scholarship program to raise the number of Indonesians studying in the U.S. under LPDP scholarships. This would be a cooperative program, and congruent with USINDO’s mission of raising bilateral educational exchanges. From 2015 to 2017 USINDO facilitated an increase of Indonesians studying in the US under LPDP through our U.S.-Indonesia Joint Council for Higher Education Partnership.

Legislative Partnership Program

USINDO implemented a highly successful two-week virtual Legislative Partnership Program (LPP) on Renewable Energy and Nuclear for Indonesian Parliament (DPR) staffers, senior staff of energy-related Executive Branch bodies, and energy scholars involved in writing Indonesia's first New and Renewable Energy bill. The bill aims to help Indonesia achieve its ambitious renewable energy and climate targets.

USINDO created LPP in 2014 to strengthen the professional capacity and expertise of DPR committees and legislative staff in developing effective laws and deepening their subject matter areas, as well as fostering U.S.-Indonesia legislative branch collaboration. We partnered with DPR's Foreign Affairs Committee in 2014 and with the Finance Committee in 2016. This year, we cooperated with DPR's Committee VII on Energy and Environment in parallel with their own work of drafting a New and Renewable Energy bill.

Congressman David Price (D-NC), Chairman of the U.S. House Democracy Partnership (HDP), who has a leading and unique role in the U.S. Congress' relations with other country parliaments, attended the opening session,. He commended USINDO's efforts in strengthening the two countries' legislative ties. Chairman of DPR's Committee VII on Energy Sugeng Suparwoto, emphasized that USINDO's 2021 LPP is in line with the commitment of Committee VII in supporting the development and implementation of renewable energy in Indonesia.



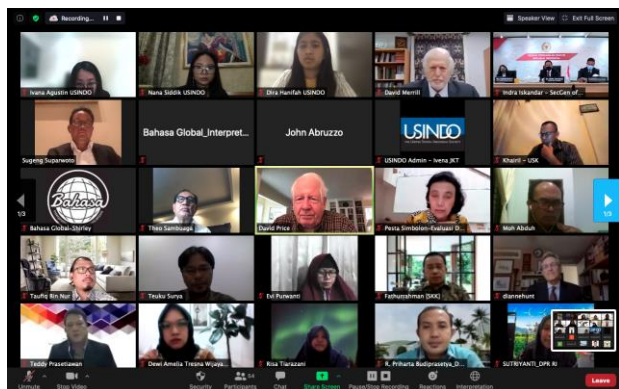
*Clockwise: USINDO President David Merrill,
Chairman of the U.S. House Democracy Partnership Congressman David Price,
Indonesian Parliament's Energy Committee Chairman Sugeng Suparwoto,
USINDO Indonesia Co-Chair Theo Sambuaga
at launch of LPP program*

USINDO's 2021 LPP covered legislative staff best practices in the U.S. and international experience and practices with New and Renewable Energy issues and legislation.

USINDO provided 11 world-class renewable energy experts from six countries, to provide information on how other countries have planned their renewable energy policies, the multi-dimensional impacts of renewable energy, the pros and cons of each renewable energy source ,and fiscal and regulatory policies that have been used.

They discussed case studies from China, Germany, India, South Africa, Iceland, and Mexico in promoting clean energy.

The program also covered options for regulatory framework, financing, risks and barriers that need to be taken into account in renewables investments, and the role of the private sector in renewable energy technology development and innovation. Other-country experience in utilizing geothermal potential, and governing nuclear safety.



This year's LPP exposed the participants to the staff of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee, Congressional Research Service (CRS) and Executive Office of the President. They learned about policy making in the U.S., Congressional research resources, U.S. House Energy Subcommittee, the critical role and responsibilities of legislative staff in supporting Members of Parliament, and oversight functions of committees and legislative bodies. They were also briefed

on the energy policy of the United States in past administrations.

Those insights provided a useful reflection to the Indonesian Parliament staffers in formulating and writing effective policies.

USINDO hopes to have helped strengthen the capacity and professionalism of Indonesian parliamentary staff and further support the promotion of democracy in Indonesia through this program, and is looking forward to doing so in the future.

Session titles and speakers:

“Global Trends of Renewable Energy Transition” & “Building Blocks of Renewable Energy Policies”

March 30, 2021

U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

- Jeff Logan
- Barbara O'Neill
- Rob Hardison

“Unlocking Renewable Energy Investment: The Role of Risk Mitigation and Structured Finance”

March 31, 2021

Costanza Strinati, Associate Programme Officer, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

“In Promoting Renewables, Context Matters”

March 31, 2021

- Dr. Phillippe Benoit, Adjunct Senior Research Scholar, Columbia University
- Sr. Beltran, Former Deputy Secretary for Planning and Energy Transition (2012-2018), Mexico

“Creating A Pro-Renewables Environment”

April 1, 2021

Bill Meade, Director at Tetra Tech, USA & Dr. Bartosz Wojszczyk, CEO, Decision Point Global

“Governance, Regulatory and Legal Issues of Nuclear and Renewable Energy: The Asian Experience”

April 5, 2021

Dr. Philip Andrews-Speed, Senior Principal Fellow, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore

“Renewable Energy Policies Around the World: Key Takeaways for Indonesia”

April 6, 2021

Kelly Sims Gallagher, Director, Climate Policy Lab and Co-Director, Center of International Environment and Resource Policy, Fletcher School, Tufts University

“Geothermal Energy - International Development in the Context of Indonesia”

April 6, 2021

Alexander Richter, Managing Director, Iceland Renewable Energy Cluster & Iceland Geothermal and Founder, ThinkGeoEnergy

Congressional Research Service (CRS) Part 1 - “The Work of the U.S. House Energy Committee Staff”

April 7, 2021

- Judy Schneider, Consultant on the Congress
- Tobias A. Dorsey, Managing Counsel for Legal Policy, Executive Office of the President

Congressional Research Service (CRS) Part 2 - “Clean Energy and the Work of U.S. House Energy Committee Staff”

April 8, 2021

- Brent Yacobucci, Energy and Minerals Section Research Manager, Congressional Research Service
- Ashley Lawson, Analyst in Energy Policy, Congressional Research Service
- Ben Dolven, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Congressional Research Service
- Kevin R. Kosar, Resident Scholar, Politics and Public Opinion, American Enterprise Institute
- Timothy Robinson, Chief Counsel, Energy and Commerce Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

Video clips from the program are in preparation.

Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program

Over the last decade, USINDO in collaboration with the Indonesia Ministry of Foreign Affairs has funded graduate level education of top ranked Indonesian officials and managed 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 affairs and international law. Due to COVID-19 uncertainty, USINDO and Indonesia MFA are not taking applications for FY 2021-2022.

2020-2021 Edward E. Masters Fellow



In 2019, Ed Masters 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.

Due to coronavirus, she deferred her study from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021, and is now preparing for her travel to U.S..

Professional Fellows Program (PFP)

USINDO's planned PFP will provide American graduate students the opportunity to cooperate with Indonesian companies on solutions to issues in key Indonesian development sectors such as ICT, energy, and environment. USINDO will work with U.S. universities to find appropriate students and 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.

As COVID will likely still be prevalent in Indonesia this year, we continue to explore how we might usefully proceed with a remote Professional Fellowship Program in the second half of 2021 in those fields where it makes sense. For now, we have identified some priority fields of internships that can be done remotely such as ICT.

Summer Studies Program

Enthusiasm towards USINDO's Summer Studies Program remains, and we continue to receive inquiries from American students who are eager to apply to the program. However, with international travel restrictions in place, we are obliged to defer the program until international travel is safe and feasible. The Freeman Foundation, which funds this program together with USINDO matching funds, has agreed to let us carry over their funds to a 2022 program.

Photos of past USINDO Summer Studies Program are accessible [here](#).

YSEALI Professional Fellowship Program

From 2008 until 2020, USINDO was 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 is the U.S.' government's signature program to strengthen leadership development and partnerships of young Southeast Asian leaders. Over two decades, USINDO has facilitated the exchange of more than seventy YSEALI fellows under the PFP theme of legislative and governance.

Under the new YSEALI framework in 2021, USINDO is partnering with American Councils for International Education (ACIE) in facilitating the next cycles of PFP. As the sole Indonesian program implementer, USINDO is now involved not in all four themes of PFP (i) civic engagement, (ii) economic empowerment, (iii) governance and society, and (iv) sustainable development and environment.

USINDO hopes that our new partnership with ACIE will create a more robust PFP for Indonesia in the future. As program partner, USINDO remains committed to supporting all the outreach, selection and pre-departure administrative processes of the PFP.

Owing to coronavirus, the next recruitment of PFP fellows will resume in July 2021, with earliest travel to the U.S. in March 2022. Dates are subject to changes at discretion of the U.S. Department of States (ECA).

Online Presence


Social Media Presence

USINDO has continued to optimize its social media presence in all outlets, 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 an increased amount of engagement, with some 550 Instagram accounts engaged every month, Facebook with 140, and LinkedIn with growing numbers of 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 strategy toward reaching new audiences. Visit USINDO's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Flickr](#), [Youtube](#) and [Twitter](#).

A. Instagram

A screenshot of an Instagram post from the account 'theusindo'. The post features a video thumbnail of a man in a white shirt and tie speaking, with American and Indonesian flags in the background. To the right of the video is a graphic that reads 'Virtual WELCOME RECEPTION for US AMBASSADOR SUNG KIM' and 'Thursday, November 18, 2020'. The Instagram interface shows the profile picture, name, and interaction icons (heart, comment, share, bookmark).

Sample Instagram Post:
USINDO, AmCham Indonesia and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosted a Virtual Welcome Event for the new U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, The Honorable Sung Kim, on November 19.

Ambassador Kim was warmly welcomed by AmCham Managing Director Lin Neumann, followed with remarks by John Goyer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and David Merrill as President of USINDO. Scott Hanna, Chair of AmCham Indonesia, proceeded to introduce Ambassador Kim to the U.S. and Indonesian audience, who expressed their enthusiasm in supporting the strategic relationship between the two countries.

Ambassador Kim's remarks indicated great optimism for U.S. - Indonesia bilateral relations, as he emphasized capitalizing on its positive momentum following a series of visits by U.S. and Indonesian government officials to discuss cooperation in trade and investment. He believes that through continuous support, friendship, and good guidance, both countries will be able to seize opportunities to further elevate relations with one another.

Finally, President of USINDO David Merrill closed the event with a toast to Ambassador Kim, wishing him success during his tenure in Indonesia.

#DubesKim

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/2CxAQVI>. #yseali #professional #fellows #governance #society #usa #indonesia

C. LinkedIn



Sample LinkedIn Post:

USINDO and the Stimson Center's Southeast Asia Forum held a joint program November 12 on Indonesia's Foreign Policy Positioning between China and the United States: Enduring Themes, Recent Issues, Outlook in the Post-U.S. Election Environment.

It featured distinguished panelists Murray Hiebert (Author, Under Beijing's Shadow: Southeast Asia's China Challenge and Senior Associate, Southeast Asia Program, CSIS), and Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar (Research Professor, Center for Political Studies- Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, The Habibie Center).

To watch the webinar video, please click this link: <https://lnkd.in/g-qYuiX>

#webinar #us #china #indonesia #foreignpolicy #geopolitics

D. YouTube



Sample YouTube Video Post:

Virtual Farewell Reception and Discussion in Honor of H.E. Muhammad Lutfi

USINDO hosted a virtual event on March 25 to bid farewell to Indonesia's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Muhammad Lutfi and congratulate him on his new position as Trade Minister.

F. Twitter



Sample Twitter Post:

We wish all our Muslim community Eid Mubarak! We wish you and your family health and peace today, tomorrow, and always.

-- End of President's Report --

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