



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

MAY 2016 – MAY 2017

The United States – Indonesia Society

May Board Meeting

Table of Contents

Information Programs

Galas	3
USINDO Special Events	5
Open Forum Series.....	6
2016 U.S. Presidential Election Series.....	6
Economy, Trade & Business Series.....	7
USINDO Scholars Series.....	8
USINDO Religion and Pluralism Series	10
Other Open Forums	11

Education Programs and Grants

Legislative Partnership Program.....	13
Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program	17
The U.S. – Indonesia Joint Council on Higher Education Partnership.....	19
Sumitro Fellows Program.....	26
Summer Studies Program	28
ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellows Program,.....	31
Indonesia - U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism	34

USINDO Staff

Galas

USINDO 2017 Washington Gala Dinner

April 19, 2017

Featured Speaker:

H.E. Sri Mulyani

Minister of Finance

Republic of Indonesia

View the Video [here](#)



Welcome and Introductory Remarks –
USINDO President Ambassador, David Merrill

View the Video [here](#)



Special Remarks –
**Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East
Asian and Pacific Affairs, Susan A. Thornton**

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Sri Mulyani –
**USINDO Co-Chair, Ambassador J. Stapleton
Roy**

View the Video [here](#)



Presentation of Award to Sri Mulyani for
**Distinguished Leadership in Indonesian and
Global Development**

View the Video [here](#)

USINDO Special Events

Jakarta

USINDO-AmCham Welcoming Reception for U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, H.E. Ambassador Joseph R. Donovan, Jr. and Mrs. Mei Chou Wu.

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mandarin Oriental Hotel

USINDO, in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce Jakarta, organized a welcoming reception for the new U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, H.E. Joseph R. Donovan, Jr. and his wife, Mrs. Mei Chou Wu



Open Forum Series

USINDO's signature Open Forum Series has become the premier arena for USINDO to build public understanding of Indonesia and the United States. The discussions feature distinguished experts, academics, and policy makers, 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 the speakers. This year, USINDO held a total of 12 Open Forums in Washington D.C. and Jakarta, centered around four defined themes: (1) 2016 U.S. Presidential Election Series; (2) Economy, Trade, and Business Series; (3) USINDO Scholars Series; and (4) Religion and Pluralism. The events held in the past 12 months are presented below:

2016 U.S. Presidential Election Series

The 2016 U.S. Presidential Election and subsequent inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States has been a great topic of interest not only in the U.S. but also in other countries, especially Indonesia. In response to this enthusiasm from the public, USINDO has hosted Open Forums inviting experts from diverse fields to discuss their views on various aspects of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election as well as provide insight into possible policy directions of the new Trump administration.

Jakarta

The Race to the White House: The Outlook Three Weeks Out

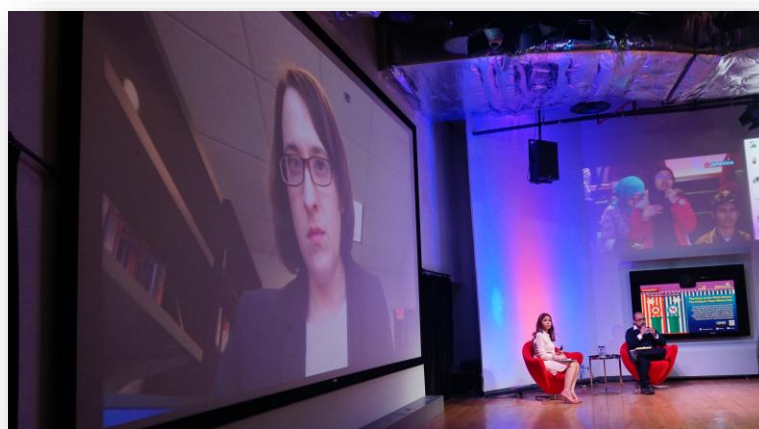
October 14, 2016

Molly E. Reynolds (Via DVC)

Fellow in Governance Studies,
Brookings Institutions

Nathanael Gratiar Sumaktoyo

Doctoral Fellow in Religious Freedom Project, Berkley Center, Georgetown University



Event Co-host: U.S. Embassy and The Habibie Center
View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)

The Direction of US Foreign & Defense Policy under Trump's Administration

January 31, 2017

Dr. Vali R. Nasr

Dean, John Hopkins University,
Paul H. Nitze School of
International Studies (SAIS)

Moderated by:

Gita Wirjawan,

Former Indonesia Trade Minister,
Founder of Ancora Foundation

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).



Economy, Trade & Business Series

This series covers a wide range of topics in the field of economics, trade, and business.

Washington D.C.

Assessing President Jokowi's New Cabinet: Implications for Economic Reform and Governance

August 16, 2016

Mr. Paul Rowland

Independent Consultant, Advisor,
Reformasi Weekly Review

Moderated by:

Dr. Barbara Harvey

USINDO Advisor

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).



USINDO Scholars Series

This series presents renowned scholars from the U.S. and Indonesia who offer their views and insights regarding their areas of expertise in various topics on U.S. and Indonesia.

Washington D.C.

Disengaging Indonesian Jihadists: What Works

July 20, 2016

Prof. Julie Chernov Hwang

Associate Professor, Chair of the
Department of Political Science and
International Relations, Goucher College



View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

The National Sea Policy and the Global Maritime Fulcrum: Opportunities and Challenges for Indonesia's Foreign and Defense Policy under President Jokowi

March 22, 2017

Evan A. Laksmana

Visiting Fellow, Political and Security Affairs, National
Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)
Senior Researcher, Centre for Strategic and
International Studies (CSIS) Jakarta



Jakarta

The Role Universities and the Public & Private Sectors Can Play in Workforce Development in Indonesia and United States

June 22, 2016

Chancellor Gene Block

Chief Executive Officer of University of
California, Los Angeles

Former Ambassador Lutfi Rauf

Deputy in Charge of International
Cooperation at the Office of the
Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal,
And Security Affairs



Prof. Ari Kuncoro
Dean of the Faculty of
Economics and Business, University of Indonesia

A. Lin Neumann
Managing Director of
AmCham Indonesia

Julia S. Gouw
Retiring President and
Chief Operating Officer of
East West Bancorp, Inc.

Remarks by:
Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr.
Former United States Ambassador to the
Republic of Indonesia

Event Co-host: UCLA and @america
View the Photo Gallery [here](#)

The Hague's South China Sea Ruling: Legal and Political Implications
September 6, 2016

Prof. Julian Ku
Maurice A. Deane Distinguished
Professor of Constitutional Law
And the Faculty Director of
International Programs at
Hofstra University

Ayodhia G.L. Kalake
Deputy Assistant for Maritime Zone
Delimitation for the Indonesia
Coordinating Ministry for Maritime
Affairs

Aaron Jensen
Deputy Political Counselor for
External Affairs at the U.S.
Embassy Jakarta



Event Co-host: The Habibie Center and U.S. Embassy
View the Photo Gallery [here](#)

USINDO Religion and Pluralism Series

Given the diverse historical and cultural background in U.S. and Indonesia, as well as the similarities of political, security, and cultural challenges presented to both countries. This year USINDO presents a new Open Forum Series on Religion and Pluralism in the U.S. and Indonesia.

Washington, D.C.

Current Issues of Religion and Pluralism in Indonesia: Three Dimensions

March 14, 2017

Dr. Dicky Sofjan

Principal Investigator for Religion, Public Policy and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia, Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS)

Dr. Siti Syamsiyatun

Director of ICRS,
Member of the Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism.

Dr. Leonard Epafra

Faculty Member,
ICRS and Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana (UKDW).

Prof. Katherine Marshall

Senior Fellow, Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs
Professor of the Practice of Development, Conflict, and Religion in the School of Foreign Service.
Member of the Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism.

Event Co-host: Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs and Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA)



The State of Pluralism in Indonesia: Testing the Strength of Indonesia's Unity in Diversity

April 6, 2017

Endy M. Bayuni

Editor-in-Chief,
Jakarta Post



Jakarta

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Understanding the Contemporary Context of Pluralism and Diversity in the U.S. and Indonesia

August 10, 2016

Prof. Azyumardi Azra

Director of the Syarif Hidayatullah
State Islamic University Graduate School

Imam Mohammed Magid

Executive Director of the All Dulles
Area (ADAMS) and Former President
of the Islamic Society of North
America (ISNA)

Prof. Muhammad Ali

Associate Professor in Islamic Studies at the
University of Carolina Riverside

Imam Plemon T. El-Amin

Imam Emeritus of
Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam

Rev. Susan Hayward

Director of Religion and Peacebuilding
of the United States Institute of Peace



View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

Other Open Forums

Washington, D.C.

Jakarta's 2017 Gubernatorial Election: The Perspective of One of the Candidates

October 12, 2016

Sandiaga S. Uno

Vice Governor Candidate,
2017 Jakarta Gubernatorial Election
Vice Chairman,
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Cooperatives and Creative Economy of the
Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KADIN)
Former Chairman, Indonesian Young
Entrepreneurs Association (HIPMI)

Jakarta

The Future of Women in Politics & Public Policy in US and Indonesia

February 16, 2017

Brette McSweeney

President
Eleanor's Legacy

Rahayu Saraswati

Djojohadikusumo
Member of Parliament
Commission VIII
Republic of Indonesia

Delima Saragih

Senior Program Officer
International Republican
Institute (IRI)

Dr. Kaitlin Shilling

Director of PLUS



Event Co-host: U.S. Embassy and @america

View the Photo Gallery [here](#)

Education Programs and Grants

Legislative Partnership Program

On November 13-18 2016, USINDO successfully held its second Legislative Partnership Program in cooperation with the U.S. House Democracy Partnership (HDP), the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), and the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR).

The Legislative Partnership Program (LPP) consists of a one-week study program with concentrated exposure to U.S. Congressional practices for professional staff and committee management, comprehensive policy research, and multi stakeholder engagement. The focus of the second LPP was on substantive issues of the Committee on Finance, National Development Planning, Banking, Trade, and Industry.

A distinguished selection panel from USINDO, U.S. Embassy Jakarta and partner NGOs selected the following eight delegates to participate in the second LPP:

1. **Achmad Sani Alhusain**
Researcher,
Centre for Research of the Expert Body, DPR RI
2. **Agustinus Apelabi**
Head of Meeting Secretariat Subdivision,
Commission XI on Finance, National Development Planning Board, Banking and
Non-Bank Financial Institutions Affairs
3. **Laksmi Harundani**
Legislative Drafter,
Secretariat General, DPR RI
4. **Sahat A.F. Silalahi**
Researcher,
Centre for Research of the Expert Body, DPR RI
5. **Venti Eka Satya**
Researcher,
Centre for Research of the Expert Body, DPR RI
6. **Inti N. Suradi**
Expert Staff for Fraksi Nasdem,

Commission XI on Finance, National Development Planning Board, Banking and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Affairs

7. M. Rihan Handaulah

Expert Staff to the Hon. Ecky Awal Mucharam (PKS),
Commission XI on Finance, National Development Planning Board, Banking and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Affairs

8. Rian Pradipta

Expert Staff to the Hon. Satya Yudha
Commission VII on Energy and Environment

The Indonesian participants learned practical knowledge and insights directly from their U.S. counterparts. Topics included U.S. Congressional Committee functioning, how professional staff assists the Members using the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, and the General Accountability Office, and how the U.S. system engages stakeholders for inclusive policy-making. Methods included lectures, interactive discussions, workshops with assignments, and direct observation of committee hearings and floor proceedings.

In addition to learning U.S. legislative processes, the participants gained substantive knowledge on finance, fiscal and monetary, trade and banking issues such as the U.S. budget deficit, TPP, Dodd-Frank Act, and U.S. financial reform policy. As the program took place a week after the U.S. Presidential election, the participants also gained impressions of the election and its implications as seen by the U.S. Congress.



Meeting with Congressional Budget Office



Dialogue with Panel of Experts from Congressional Research Service

The participants were privileged to gain invaluable insight on the role of members and staff through an interactive discussion with Representative David Price, Ranking Member of the House Democracy Partnership and Member of the Appropriations Committee. Congressman Price stressed the value of strengthening the legislative partnership between the U.S. and Indonesia, and his high regard for the role of legislative support staff.

To stretch and apply their learning from Capitol Hill, USINDO organized a workshop day for the participants. Experienced practitioners from the government and non-government sectors shared practical skills, including how to effectively write memos, briefing papers and other products for a legislative clientele, how to inform parliament members on topical issues related to trade, finance and banking, how to effectively conduct advocacy and lobbying, and strategies for engaging with the media, private sector, and NGOs.



**Discussion with Representative David Price (D-NC),
Ranking Minority Member, House Democracy Partnership**



**Workshop with Professor James A. Thurber,
Director of the Center on Congressional and
Presidential Studies, American University**

This was capped with a practical work assignment requiring the participants to draw on their experience and information acquired on substantive topics and support resources, and apply it to the context of their work in Indonesia. They wrote sample briefing papers for their committees in their areas of interest, and presented them orally to the group for comment.

This LPP also provided three broader outcomes:

(1) American presenters learned more about Indonesia and had the chance to compare and reflect on their own legislation;

(2) The program raised awareness on the Hill about Indonesia and its different legislative system.

(3) Participants developed contacts with Members and Staffers of the U.S. Congress from both parties, U.S. and Indonesian Executive Branch officials, and NGOs and CSOs, which may lead to further collaboration and cooperation in the future.

The participants are anticipating to continue in Jakarta to work on more specific issues on policy research, legislative drafting, budget analysis, and institution building.



Participants preparing for their final workshop presentations



LPP 2016 Participants

For more photos of the "Legislative Partnership Program," please click [here](#).

Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program

The Edward E. Masters Program funds the graduate level education and manages the placement of top ranked officials from the Indonesian government at leading universities in the United States. The program has placed 18 junior diplomats and one mid-career diplomat at top U.S. graduate programs in international affairs and international law.

Edward E. Masters Fellows 2018

On January 24, 2017 USINDO was invited by the Center for Education and Training of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present the Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program at the Pusdiklat EduFair. Through this event, USINDO was given the opportunity to explain the details of the fellowship and engage in an interactive question and answer session with interested applicants during the presentation session as well as at the walk-in information booth. This event helped to spread information of the fellowship to a wider audience of prospective junior and mid-career diplomats interested in pursuing graduate study in the U.S.



The selection for the 2018 batch of Edward E. Masters Fellows is currently underway. The number of applicants for the 2018 batch has increased compared to previous years, thanks in part to the comprehensive information session during the Pusdiklat EduFair. Conditional candidates for the 2018 batch of fellows will be announced by early June 2017.

Ed Masters MoU Extension

USINDO had the privilege to continue its cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA RI) under the framework of the Edward E. Masters USINDO Program for a third cycle. This was marked by the signing of the extended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between USINDO and MoFA RI on March 27, 2017. This

extended MoU has solidified the cooperation between USINDO and MoFA until the year 2020.

Ministry of Law and Human Rights

In 2016, with the help of USINDO, The Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights successfully sent the second batch of Indonesian students to do a one-year graduate law (LLM) program in the Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW) at Loyola's campus in Rome, Italy. The program educates students from developing countries on how to be effective rule of law advisors in both domestic and cross-border legal reform initiatives.

The two officials nominated for the 2016 PROLAW program are:

1. Ms. Lina Widyastuti, S.H., M.H.
2. Mr. M. Manzila Falah, S.H.

Both officials have since departed to Rome to attend their studies and are expected to graduate by mid-2017. Under this new agreement, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights has agreed to cover the tuition fee for one student and the room and board fees for both students, while the Loyola University Chicago has agreed to cover the tuition fee for one student.

Due to a retrenchment in the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Ministry was not able to nominate any officials for the 2017 PROLAW program. However, the Ministry has expressed interest to continue the program in the upcoming year.

In this regard, USINDO will continue to play its role in facilitating the negotiations between the two institutions in order to ensure that the communication between the two institutions run smoothly.



The U.S. – Indonesia Joint Council on Higher Education Partnership

This year marks five years of the U.S.-Indonesia Joint Council on Higher Education Partnership (“Joint Council”) working to increase U.S. and Indonesian higher educational ties. During the past five years, the Joint Council has become known as the lead organization for connecting U.S. and Indonesian universities on a wide range of partnerships including student exchange, faculty exchange, and joint research. The Joint Council remains the only non-governmental organization recognized by both presidents in the U.S. - Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership.

Since 2011, the Joint Council has:

- **Sent over 1,000** Indonesian and American students to each other’s respective countries for study.
- **Leveraged over \$34 million** in scholarships and grants to support student exchange.
- **Established 10 university partnerships** between American and Indonesian universities and institutions.
- **More than doubled** the number of Indonesian Government scholarship recipients (LPDP scholars) studying in the United States annually through the creation of the Indonesian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund.

When the Joint Council was established in 2010, enrollment of Indonesian students at American universities was at an historic low and the number of Americans studying in Indonesia was flat (see Figures 1 & 2).

Today, the number of Indonesians studying in the United States is the highest level in ten years and the number of Americans studying in Indonesia is higher than at any point in the past 25 years.

Figure 1: Indonesians Studying in the U.S.

(source: *Open Doors Report 2015*, Institute of International Education)

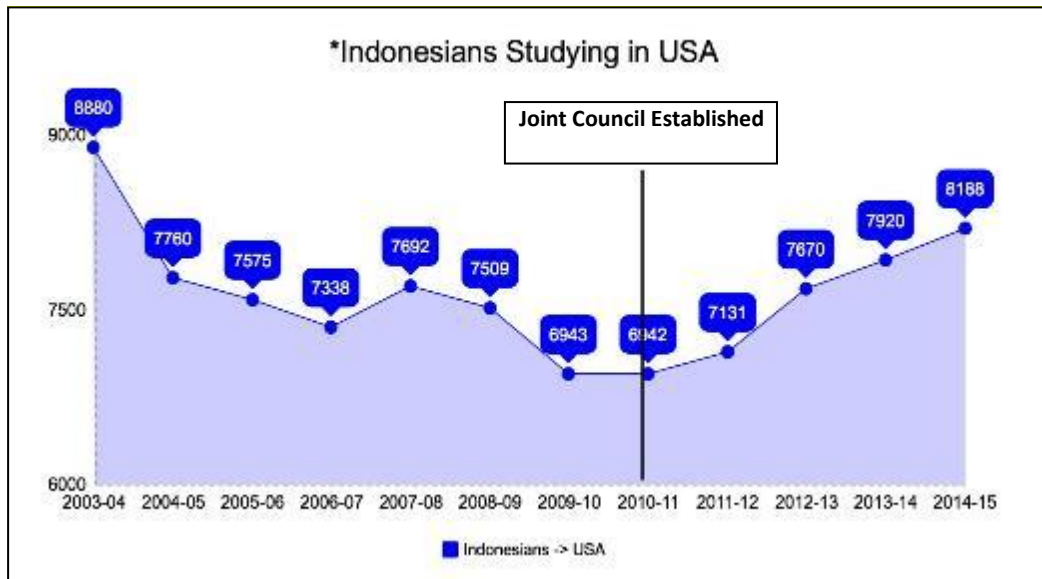
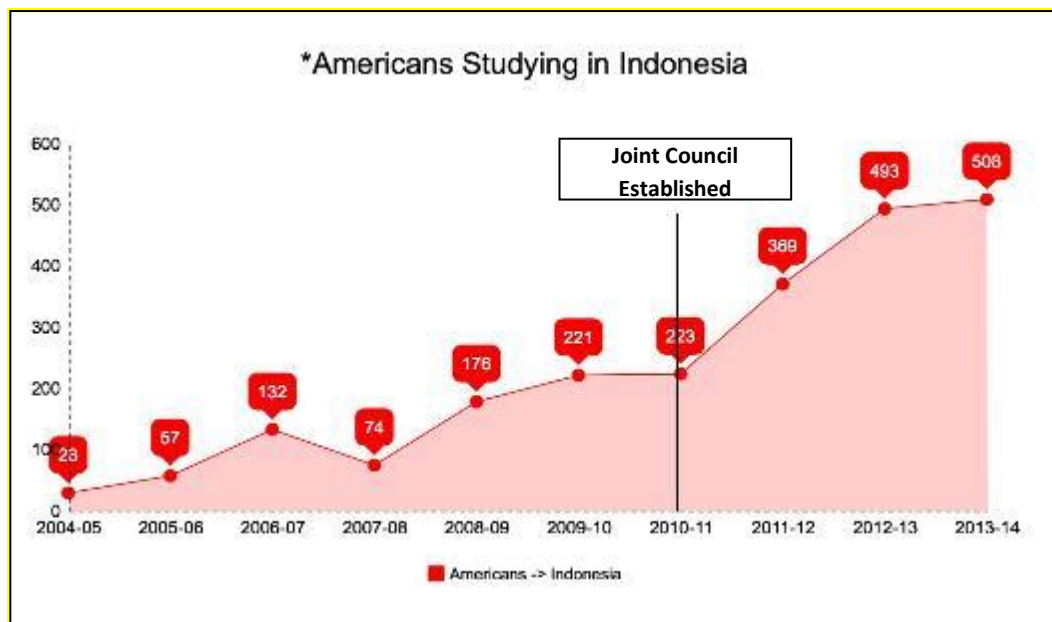


Figure 2: Americans Studying in Indonesia

(Source: *Open Doors Report 2015*, Institute of International Education)



These accomplishments are the result of the efforts by the U.S-Indonesia Joint Council, AMINEF Fulbright, U.S. State Department, RISTEK-DIKTI, the Indonesian Education Endowment Fund (LPDP), foundations and corporations, and U.S. and Indonesian universities.

Student Exchange

Over the past six years the Joint Council established student pipelines between universities to increase student exchange. Since 2011, the Joint Council has helped over **1,000 Americans and Indonesians** study in each other's country through its university partnerships.

Figure 3: Joint Council-Facilitated Student Exchange: 2011-16

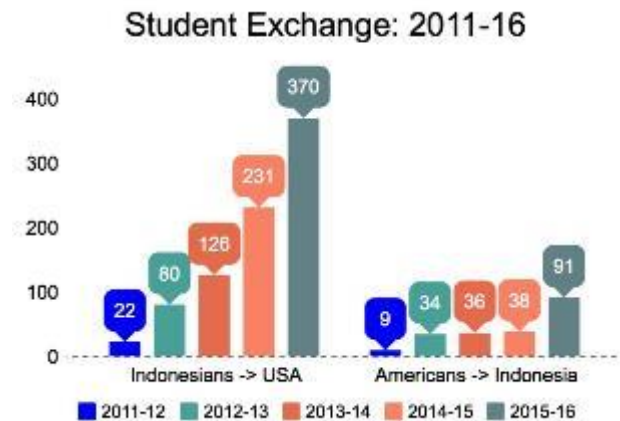


Each year, the Joint Council has increased the number of students studying in the United States and Indonesia compared with previous years (see figure 4 on next page). This largely has been accomplished through the formal partnerships the Joint Council established between American and Indonesian universities that help facilitate the increase flow of students.

For example, over 40% of the 1000+ student exchanges that took place since 2011 occurred in the past year alone – demonstrating the strength of the Joint Council's efforts in building university partnerships and initiatives to send higher numbers of Indonesian graduate students to study in the United States. Additionally, more of the US university partners are establishing short-term study abroad options for Americans to visit Indonesia.

We anticipate that through these partnerships and other Joint Council-led initiatives, such as the Indonesian Graduate Scholarship Fund, even greater numbers of American and Indonesians will study in each other's countries in the years to come.

Figure 4: Joint Council’s Annual Student Exchange Statistics



Partnerships

The Joint Council has established the following **ten partnerships** between U.S. and Indonesian universities, primarily in the science and technology fields.

- **Texas A&M University & Institut Teknologi Bandung:**
Chemical engineering, petroleum engineering, and earth sciences
- **Rutgers University & Banda Islands’ Hatta-Syahrir College of Fisheries:** Marine science and cultural preservation
- **Rutgers University & Universitas Airlangga:** Family and community health
- **Northern Arizona University & University of Mataram:**
Forestry management
- **University of Maryland & Bappenas:**
Public policy and staff training
- **University of Missouri & Indonesian Press Association:**
Investigative journalism
- **University of Missouri & Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB):**
Plant/crop sciences and Agroforestry
- **University of Hawaii Manoa & Universitas Islam Indonesia:**
Urban and regional planning

- **University of Illinois & Indonesian Education Endowment Fund:**
Increase the number of Indonesian graduate students at Illinois
- **University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) & Indonesian Education Endowment Fund:**
Increase the number of Indonesian graduate students at UCLA

Since the last USINDO Board Meeting in May 2016, these partnerships have been actively engaged in the following:

- **University of Maryland College Park** conducted a one-week intensive training on innovation in public policy for **16 senior KEMLU officials** in Washington, DC in June 2016. In November 2016, Maryland will train an additional **25 Bappenas officials** on scholarship management during a two-week intensive training on the Maryland campus and provide another executive training program for 15+ senior KEMLU officials.
- **Rutgers University** made its fourth visit to the Banda Islands to strengthen its partnership in cultural preservation and marine science. In June, Ambassador Blake joined the Rutgers team in the Banda Islands to engage stakeholders involved in its UNESCO World Heritage nomination process being led by the Rutgers University Center for Heritage and Cultural Preservation.



From left to right: Joella Van Donkersgoed (Rutgers University researcher), U.S. Ambassador Robert Blake, Niruban Balachandran (World Bank and Rutgers alumnus), Rector of Hatta-Syahrir College of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, and Dr. Eric Garfunkel (Rutgers University Vice President). Taken June 2016 in front of the Banda Island's Computer Lab donated by Rutgers University and the World Bank.



Ambassador Blake, Rutgers University officials, Indonesian students and faculty at Hatta-Syahrir College of Fisheries and Marine Science in June 2016.

- **University of California Los Angeles** signed an agreement with the Indonesian Education Endowment Fund to enroll more graduate students at UCLA. The Joint Council helped draft the MOU with UCLA and organized the June visit to Jakarta by UCLA Chancellor Gene Block, including an alumni reception held at the US Ambassador's Residence (see photo below).



The Joint Council organized a UCLA alumni reception with Ambassador Robert Blake and UCLA Chancellor Gene Block. Photo taken on June 23, 2016 at the US Ambassador's Residence.

- **University of Missouri Columbia** hired a full time staff member in Jakarta to promote the Journalism School and increase applications to the university. The Joint Council established ties between Missouri and the Tanoto Foundation in June 2016 and facilitated initial discussions for Missouri to conduct journalism training for the Foundation.

Indonesian Graduate Scholarship Support Fund

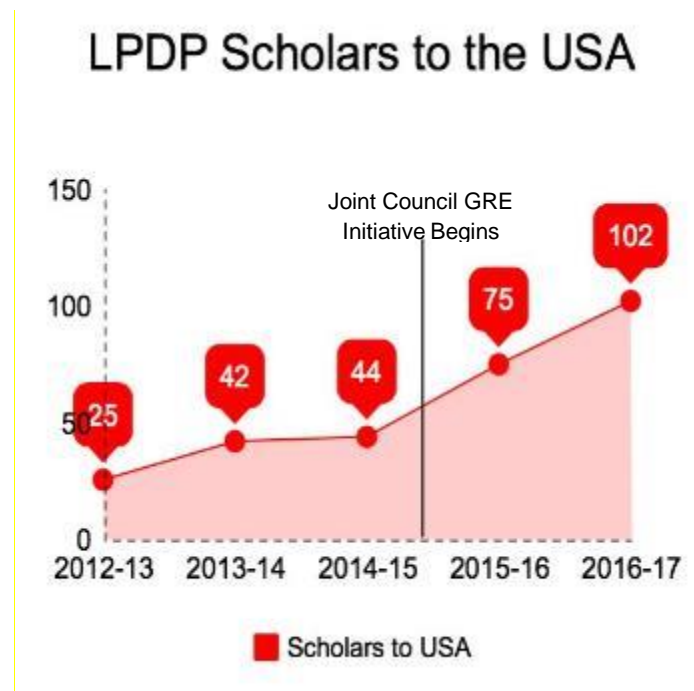
In 2012, the Indonesian Government established a \$1.4 billion scholarship fund to send Indonesians abroad for graduate study. This fund, known as the Indonesian Education Endowment Fund (LPDP), has sent thousands of Indonesians abroad for graduate study but very few have matriculated at American universities. The vast majority has chosen to study in Australia, Japan, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Between 2012-2014, only 111 LPDP scholarship recipients matriculated at U.S. universities. In response to such low enrollment numbers, the Joint Council established focus groups with Indonesian students and learned that the cost of taking the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) was a major constraint that prevented funded scholars from even applying to US universities.

In 2014-2015, the Joint Council established the Indonesian Graduate Application Support Fund (“The Fund”) to provide free GRE and GMAT test vouchers, and free GRE test preparation courses, to LPDP scholars interested in studying in the United States. To date the Joint Council has **distributed over 300 GRE and GMAT test vouchers** to LPDP Scholars applying to US universities and provided two 8-week GRE test preparation course to 24 LPDP scholars.

The Fund has been extremely successful and **more than doubled** the number of LPDP scholars studying in the United States (see figure 5)

Figure 5: LPDP Scholars at U.S. Universities



Contributions to the Fund came from the following nine U.S. universities in addition to support from the Ancora Foundation:

- Harvard University
- Rutgers University
- University of Arizona
- University of California San Diego
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Illinois Chicago
- University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- University of Iowa
- University of Washington

Following six years of successful Joint Council work toward the overall goal originally set by the Obama administration in 2010 of doubling the number of students in each other's country, in May 2017 the sense is that the Joint Council has accomplished what it can do under that prior impetus, and is starting to wind down. A fresh look is needed during the Trump- Jokowi period under the US-Indonesia Strategic Partnership, with the participation and views of non-governmental organizations such as USINDO and others, as to whether educational partnerships and increased bilateral student exchanges remain the priority in education in 2017-2021 that they were in 2010-2016. USINDO will be taking up these and similar issues at its May 2017 board meeting.

Sumitro Fellows Program

USINDO received a total of 15 applications (7 Americans and 8 Indonesians) for the 2016 Sumitro Fellows Program. The Sumitro Fellows Review Committee met in mid-2016 and selected the following as the 2016 Sumitro Fellows. Both Fellows have since completed their research under the Fellowship and will submit progress reports as well as draft versions of their research publications to USINDO by the end of May 2017. The Sumitro Fellows program is currently do not accept applicants pending to the funding continuation. Should further funding become available, we will resume accepting the applications.

Moch Faisal Karim (Indonesian)



Moch Faisal Karim is a PhD Candidate of Politics and International Studies (PaIS), at University of Warwick. His research interests include the role of emerging powers in global governance with a special focus on human rights, trade, and climate change governance as well as International Relations in the Asia Pacific. Prior to this, he worked as an expert staffer for Indonesia's House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and a lecturer in International Relations at Bina Nusantara University, Jakarta. From 2012-2013, he was one of ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership's Junior Fellows within the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, Rajaratnam School of International Studies (NTS-RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Faisal completed his master's degree at the University of Nottingham and his bachelor's degree in International Relations at University of Indonesia. Faisal is currently an LPDP scholarship recipient at University of Warwick.

Alysson Akiko Oakley (American)



Alysson Akiko Oakley is a doctoral candidate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where she focuses on comparative politics and the political economy of Southeast Asia. Her doctoral research includes clientelism as well as informal networks and institutions in Indonesia. She has been an adjunct professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University since 2011, and since 2009 has authored reports on political and civil rights for five Southeast Asian countries for the annual publication *Freedom in the World*. Previously, she served as a senior adviser at the International Republican Institute and program director at the U.S.-Indonesia Society. She received a master's degree in International Relations from SAIS (2009) and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Brown University (2003).

Summer Studies Program

For 22 years now USINDO has conducted the Summer Studies Program as a way for young Americans to learn Indonesian culture and language through this intensive and culturally immersive summer program. This year, we continue to do the same while also improving the quality of the program.

In order to bring more opportunities to young Americans to learn about Indonesia, this year's Summer Studies Program has developed several changes and improvements. Most notably, we have increased the number of participants from 12 to 14 people, and for the first time, we are also awarding a partial scholarship for one participant based on needs and merit.

Like last year, USINDO is partnering with the Indonesian Language and Culture Intensive Course (ILCIC) at Sanata Dharma University as the language instruction provider for the program's language courses. After some feedbacks from last year, ILCIC is committed to improve its curriculum and teaching methods to better teach Bahasa, not only to the beginner level students, but also to the intermediate and advanced level students.

Besides language instruction, USINDO also emphasizes the importance of cultural immersion in its summer studies program. While this year's program components remain largely the same—home stay, field trips, cultural workshops, volunteering program, research, and social media engagement—we try to improve their execution, adjust them to suit the students' needs and interests, and make them more impactful for our students.

These commitments were made possible by continued funding from the Freeman Foundation. The foundation has recently approved our proposal of funding for an upcoming two years. In addition, USINDO also committed a proportional amount of its own funds to this year's program, as obtained from a bequest dedicated to education and from an earmarked donation from Allene Masters, in honor of Edward E. Masters' priority of sending more Americans to Indonesia.

2016 Summer Studies Program



Students work in groups during the Cross-Cultural Understanding (CCU) Session



One of the tutors presented about Indonesian culture during the CCU Session



Students learned to do traditional dance as one of the activities during the Amazing Race in the Orientation.



Crawford, one of the students, listened to the explanation from one of the host-internship organizations during the internship matching and networking event



One of the students, Davin, tells a story for the children at Rumah Impian as a part of his internship experience.



One of the students, Julie, attended a traditional Indonesian wedding with her host family.



All of the students enthusiastically listened to the explanation about U.S.-Indonesia Trade from Ms. Desy Indrimayutri from U.S. ASEAN Business Council during a dinner meeting in Jakarta.



Students learned to make batik patterns in the batik making workshop.



Students on top of the Borobudur Temple during one of their Field Trips.



Students with panelists from the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology during the two-day post-program event.



Students with the Imam of Istiqlal during their visit to the mosque as a part of the two-day post-program event in Jakarta.



Discussion and Sharing session with students from the University of Indonesia as a part of the two-day post-program event.

ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellows Program, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

USINDO is proud to continue its cooperation with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and U.S. Embassy Jakarta to help facilitate the ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellows Program for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) is the U.S. government’s signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in ASEAN, deepen engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and strengthen people-to-people ties between the United States and young Southeast Asian leaders. The Professional Fellows Program (PFP) focuses on legislative process and governance for young political and policy leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States.

Selected participants will attend orientation in Washington DC and participate in a four-week intensive fellowships in local office with day-to-day mentoring and guidance from a local leader and/or an ACYPL alumnus with the goal of strengthening their understanding of American governance, politics, and the legislative process. At the conclusion of the program, all participants will go to Washington DC for a 3-day Professional Fellows Congress where they will share their experiences with other international fellows from around the world.

The 2016 Fall PFP was held from October 8 to November 18, 2016. The delegates were selected by a panel consisting of representatives from USINDO, ACYPL, and U.S. Embassy Jakarta. The selected applicants were:

1. Suwarti Ningsih Kamondo
Economic Development and Fundraising Director, Sikola Mombine
2. Erasmus A. Todo
Program Manager, Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
3. Purnomo S. Pringgodigdo
Coordinator of Legal, Human Resources, Organization and Supervision Division,
General Election Commission in Surabaya

The 2017 Spring PFP is currently under way from April 22 - June 3, 2017. The selected delegates are:

1. Abi Marutama
Advocate, Young Voices Indonesia/Cheshire Foundation
2. Aprisal W. Malale
Business Process Analyst, Indonesia Ministry of Finance
3. Muhammad Buharto
Program Facilitator, Sunspirit for Justice & Peace
4. Nurul Komalasari
State Auditor, Indonesia Supreme Audit Board

USINDO also had the pleasure of hosting five YSEALI PFP American Mentors during their visits to Indonesia. The five American mentors, as listed below, met with renowned Indonesian leaders and professionals to network and exchange knowledge in their respective areas of expertise.

1. Brette McSweeney
President, Eleanor's Legacy
2. Jake Agliata
Outreach Coordinator, Students for Sensible Drug Policy
3. Kaitlyn Boecker
Policy Coordinator, Drugs Policy Reform
4. Ariel Shaker Brown
Operations Officer, Partnership for Transparency Fund
5. Becky Rafter
Executive Director, Georgia Women's Action for New Directions

USINDO is currently preparing for the upcoming 2017 Fall PFP. As an in-country partner organization of ACYPL, USINDO will continue to play its role in helping to disseminate the program information to prospective individuals and institutions in Indonesia, as well as work closely with both ACYPL and the U.S. Embassy Jakarta in the selection process, participants' visa application, pre-departure orientation and hosting the American mentors.

Indonesia - U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism



The Indonesia – U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism is an innovative bi-national, independent, non-governmental body, providing religious leaders, civil society organizations, scholars, and media leaders in both Indonesia and the United States a mechanism to jointly examine, address, and agree on ways the societies of our two countries can cooperate on activities and programs to share and promote the values of pluralism, diversity, and tolerance. The Council is endorsed by President Obama and President Jokowi as a civil society undertaking in a sector where both countries have much to learn from each other.

The Council was officially established during a Founding and Roadmap Conference held on August 10-11, 2016 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. USINDO was instrumental in facilitating this initial founding conference and continues to play a significant role in facilitating and providing staff support to the Council's work.

During its Founding and Roadmap Conference, the Council established three Working Groups focused on its three priority areas of work:

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.

The three Working Groups as well as the Council's Executive Committee have since conducted several teleconference meetings to explore and refine a range of possible programs and activities for the Council to carry out. These programs ranged from conducting seminars and outreach programs aimed at increasing religious understanding, developing interreligious homestay experiences for teachers and youth, and issuing calls for evidence-based research on the factors in deterring violent extremism that need to be better understood before programs with a justifiable prospect for success can be launched. With the assistance of USINDO, the Council members are currently in the process of developing program proposals that will be submitted to prospective donors interested in funding the proposed activities.

In addition to developing long-term project plans to be considered by prospective donors, the Council has already begun to be recognized as a viable network for U.S. and Indonesian religious, government, and civil society leaders to cooperate and gain insight on issues of interfaith and pluralism in each country, as evidenced by several of the programs it has participated in below:

Public Outreach Seminar in Jakarta – August 12

Assisted by USINDO, the Council organized a public outreach seminar titled “Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Understanding the Contemporary Context of Pluralism and Diversity in the U.S. and Indonesia” in Jakarta on August 12, 2016. Three American Council members and two Indonesian Council members were invited to give their perspectives on this issue and also to engage the audience and invited media representatives in a lively question and answer session that followed. In order to ensure that the important issues discussed during the roadmap conference would be brought out to a wider audience other than the Council members themselves, this seminar was attended by representatives from various government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and the general public. It served as an initial platform to inform the public of the Council's establishment and also served as one of the Council's first concrete programs to increase public awareness on the issues of religion and pluralism that the Council had been addressing in its roadmap conference.

Outreach Meeting with Indonesian National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) – April 2016

On the Indonesian side of the Council, Indonesian Co-Chair Yenny Wahid, arranged for a meeting with the Indonesian National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) to introduce the Council and explore possible avenues for collaboration particularly in the programs of Working Group III.

Through this meeting, it was generally recognized that although government activities and NGO activities were very different ways of addressing terrorism, it was useful for each to be broadly aware of what the other was doing, and to be able to communicate from time to time. The Indonesian government expressed an interest in developing preventive education against terrorism, particularly for the families of convicted terrorists.

Outreach Meeting with Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs on October 2016 and Upcoming Minister of Religious Affairs Visit to the U.S.

Indonesian Council members conducted an outreach meeting with the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs on October 7, 2016. Present at this meeting were: Minister Lukman Hakim – Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Ferimeldi – Head of the Religious Harmony Center, Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) of the Republic of Indonesia, Yenny Wahid – Indonesian Co-Chair of the Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism, Rev. Henriette Lebang – Indonesian Chair Working Group II of the Council, and Hazelia Margaretha – USINDO Country Representative.

Through this meeting the Council members informed the Minister of the Council's recent establishment and opened up discussion on possibilities of future collaboration. Among the results of this meeting include a possible visit in mid-2017 by the Minister of Religious Affairs and several senior MORA officials to the Washington DC and Los Angeles in order to meet U.S. Council members and the various organizations they are affiliated with to exchange views and develop possible collaboration on various issues.

Teleconference with Indonesian Pesantren Leaders – October 12, 2016

Members of Working Group II of the Council, including Prof. Robert Hefner and Prof. Muhammad Ali, participated in a teleconference with Indonesian pesantren Leaders visiting the U.S. The pesantren leaders conveyed their enthusiasm to work together with the Council especially with regard to the Council's proposed program to conduct joint conferences linking educators and religious leaders from both countries, as well as exchange programs for student and faculty members.

Meeting with Delegation from Harvard Kennedy School – January 16-17, 2017

On January 16-17 2017, 30 Harvard Kennedy School graduate students met with several Indonesian Council Members of the Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism in Jakarta and Yogyakarta and got insights from them on Indonesia's achievements and challenges in religious tolerance, economic growth, and education.

Interfaith Dialogue with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence – April 20, 2017

The Indonesian Council members along with several other prominent Indonesian religious leaders were invited to attend an interfaith dialogue session during the visit of U.S. Vice President Mike Pence to Indonesia in late April 2017. They were able to share their remarks and insights on the state of religion and pluralism in Indonesia with Vice President Pence. The Council's Indonesian Co-Chair, Ms. Yenny Wahid, gave a short introduction of the Council and conveyed her hopes for future collaboration between the U.S. and Indonesia on the various issues of religion and pluralism faced by both countries and moderated this productive discussion.



-- End of President's Report --

USINDO Staff

Washington, D.C.

David Merrill
President

Kevin Toda
Program Associate

Jakarta, Indonesia

Hazelia Margaretha
Jakarta Representative

Ajanti
Operations Associate