



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The United States – Indonesia Society

OCTOBER 2016 – NOVEMBER 2017

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Galas/Dinners

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](#)

Voyage to Indonesia 2018 - Washington D.C. Dinner Hosted by Government of Indonesia

October 11, 2017

The Government of Indonesia (Minister of Finance, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, and Governor of Bank Indonesia) in cooperation with the U.S. – Indonesia Society (USINDO) and the U.S. – ASEAN Business Council (USABC) hosted the Voyage to Indonesia 2018 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner on Wednesday, October 11 at the Fairmont Hotel.

'The Voyage to Indonesia (VTI) 2018' is a series of events commencing in October 2018 and advancing the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings 2018 in Bali October 2018. VTI highlights the many facets of Indonesia's culture, promote the beauty and tourism options the country offers, communicates Indonesia's current and prospective economic and social achievements, and attracts enhanced beneficial international participation in Indonesia's economic development.

At the Gala Dinner, three distinguished Indonesian ministers – Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and Central Bank Governor Agus Martowardojo – shared their insights on Indonesia's latest economic policies affecting its growth, upgraded investment rating, and new opportunities for its development and investment potential. These include investment opportunities in such key sectors as infrastructure, IT, banking, energy, creative industries, tourism, real estate, and others. Congressman Vern Buchanan, co-chair of the Congressional Indonesia Caucus, also spoke on the bilateral relationship and the opportunities for increasing awareness of Indonesia in the US Congress through expanding the Congressional Indonesia Caucus.



USINDO President Merrill: Opening remarks

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Co-Chair of Congressional Indonesia Caucus Congressman Vern Buchanan

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan by USINDO U.S. Co-Chair Ambassador Robert O. Blake Jr.

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Finance Minister Sri Mulyani by Richard Adkerson

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Central Bank Governor Agus Martowardojo by Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Central Bank Governor Agus Martowardojo

View the Video [here](#)

USINDO Special Events

Washington D.C.

US-ASEAN Business Council, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S.-Indonesia Society Roundtable with His Excellency Thomas Lembong Chairman of the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board

June 13, 2017

H.E. Thomas Lembong

Chairman of the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board

Event Co-host: US-ASEAN Business Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

USINDO-World Wildlife Fund Special Round Table Discussion Indonesia's Role in Global Climate Change Action: Engagement with International Non-State Actors

September 25, 2017

Professor Rachmat Witoelar

The President's Special Envoy for Climate Change

The US-Indonesia Society and the World Wildlife Fund held a joint interactive round-table discussion with Professor Rachmat Witoelar, President Jokowi's Special Envoy for Climate Change, on September 25. Ambassador Witoelar presented Indonesia's international strategy in climate change including exploring concrete cooperation with other governments, the private sector, academia, NGO's and other international stakeholders

Event Co-Host: World Wildlife Fund

US-Indonesia Women's CEO Summit (WCEO)

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Event Co-host: US-ASEAN Business Council, Asia Society, Seneca Women, US Chamber of Commerce, Bank Indonesia, AMCHAM Indonesia, WeConnect International, The Atlantic Council

Jakarta

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

February 6, 2017



Event Co-host: American Chamber of Commerce Jakarta

View the Photo Gallery [HERE](#). **Watch Amb. Donovan's speech** [HERE](#).

Special Open Forum: The U.S. – Indonesia Bilateral Security Relationship with Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.

August 7, 2017

Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.
Commander of the US Pacific Command

Event Co-host: American Chamber of Commerce Jakarta

View the Photo Gallery [HERE](#). **Watch the Open Forum** [HERE](#)



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 11 Open Forums in Washington D.C. and Jakarta, centered around three defined themes: (1) Politics & Security Series; (2) USINDO Scholars Series; (3) Religion and Pluralism; (4) History series. The events held in the past year are presented below:

Washington, D.C.

History Series

Special Open Forum

November 29, 2017

***Indonesia's September 30, 1965 Movement
and the Beginning of the Suharto Era:***

***Enhancing our Understanding Drawing
on Recently Released U.S. Records***



Speaker: Dr. Bradley Simpson, Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies, University of Connecticut. Founder and Director, Indonesia and East Timor Documentation Project, National Security Archive

It has now been over 50 years since September 30, 1965, a date that dramatically changed Indonesian history. A small group of Indonesians identifying themselves as the September 30 Movement, believed to be working in collaboration with the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), launched an overnight strike against Indonesian generals whom they alleged were planning a coup against President Sukarno. Six top generals were killed, but then-Major General Suharto thwarted the September 30 Movement, and subsequently began a military-led program to destroy the PKI, which resulted in the execution of both its leaders and followers. In the ensuing power struggle with President Sukarno over Indonesia's political and economic future, Suharto consolidated his control, leading to his New Order government which lasted for 32 years.

The domestic and international environment in the period leading up to September 30; the events of the night itself; the extent and nature of the actions that followed; the roles and motivations of the parties; and the knowledge, stance, and actions of U.S. and other governments have long been subjects of historical inquiry and debate. Recent documents declassified by the U.S. government and made available through requests of the National Security Archive, a Non-Government Organization, shed light on these important subjects. This program will deepen our understanding of this pivotal period of history through both presentation and discussion.

Politics & Security Series

A large segment of USINDO's Open Forum portfolio caters to a breadth of political issues surrounding US-Indonesia relations, which has been received with enthusiasm and great interest. USINDO continues to invite experts from fields concerning politics and security to discuss their insights on current happenings and key trends as it pertains to future diplomatic prospects.

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)

The Interplay of Religion and Politics in Indonesia: What Does Jakarta's Gubernatorial Election Signify?

July 25, 2017

Prof. Thomas B. Pepinsky

Associate Professor of Government
and Faculty Affiliate
Southeast Asia Program
Cornell University

Prof. Jeremy Menchik

Assistant Professor
Fredrick S. Pardee School of
Global Studies
Boston University



On July 25, USINDO held a Special Open Forum on the “The Interplay of Religion and Politics in Indonesia: What Does Jakarta’s Gubernatorial Election Signify?”. The discussion focused on the recent elections for governor of Jakarta and the subsequent trial and conviction of one of the leading candidates, Ahok, a Chinese Christian Indonesian.

Dr. Tom Pepinsky spoke on the gubernatorial election and its implications for Indonesian politics. Dr. Pepinsky believes the key lesson to draw is not about the rise of conservative Islam in Indonesia, but rather about the ability to mobilize identity in Indonesian elections. In discussing Islam in contemporary politics, he also discussed Indonesia’s new presidential decree that bans organizations that threaten Pancasila, Indonesia’s multi-faith national ideology.

Dr. Jeremy Menchik reviewed the origins of the blasphemy law, the social and religious forces driving contemporary Islamic movements, and the implications of the election for democracy in Indonesia and the larger Muslim world. Although Dr. Menchik believes many scholars are rightly concerned about a “conservative turn” in Indonesian Islam, he suggested these fears miss the mark. His view is that Ahok’s winning the election was always unlikely because of the influence of Indonesian Muslim moderates, who have long been wary of non-Muslim leaders in Jakarta and in national office.

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

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 Gratias 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](#).

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](#)

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.

Jakarta

The Internationalization of Indonesian Arts and Gamelan in the US and Other Countries

September 7, 2017

Jay M. Arms

Cultural Musicology
Ph. D Candidate
UC Santa Cruz, California

Dr. Julianti Parani

Lecturer
Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ)

Madia Patra Ismar

Doctorate Candidate
Humanities
Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ)



In this event, Mr. Arms also gave a session on tips and tricks for academic journal writing for the attendees.

Event Co-host: Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ)

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

Watch the Open Forum [here](#). **Watch the Academic Writing session** [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](#).

Relations between Religious Minorities, Majorities and the State in Indonesia and the United States: Current Trends and Issues
July 31, 2017

Prof. Brett Scharffs

Director of the International Center for
Law and Religion Studies
Brigham Young University

Yenny Wahid

Indonesian Co-Chair
Indonesia-US Council on Religion and
Pluralism
Executive Director of Wahid Institute



Dr. Ferimeldi

Chairman of the Center for Religious Harmony,
Ministry of Religious Affairs

Feby Yonesta

Chairman
SUAKA

Aminudin Syarif

Researcher
SETARA Institute

Event Co-host: Setara Institute, Wahid Institute, Council on Religion and Pluralism.

View the Photo Gallery [here](#). Watch the Open Forum [here](#).

Facilitative Meetings

As part of its mission to enhance people-to-people connections between the U.S. and Indonesia, as well as expand mutual understanding in a variety of fields, USINDO has played a key role in facilitating meetings for Americans and Indonesians who are concerned with developing their understanding about both countries. USINDO Jakarta has been assisting individuals, organizations, and companies from the United States who have a vested interest in becoming more familiar with Indonesia's political and sociocultural landscape and connecting with relevant stakeholders in a variety of fields. USINDO Washington D.C. has also facilitated a similar learning opportunity for individuals, organizations, and companies from Indonesia who are interested in connecting with relevant stakeholders and counterparts in the United States.

*Collaborating with National Public Radio (NPR) Host, **Ari Shapiro**, in creating NPR's itinerary for their upcoming visit to Indonesia from September 24 – October 8, 2017.*

NPR is doing a series of radio programs on Indonesia that will be broadcast on NPR US, greatly helping USINDO's mission of communicating Indonesia to the U.S. public. In this venture, USINDO has shared a wide array of possible contacts, provided suggestions, and arranged meetings with key figures; this includes connecting NPR with the US Embassy Public Affairs Office in Jakarta and the US Ambassador to Indonesia, Ambassador Donovan. Issues of note include Indonesia's democracy, it being the largest Muslim-majority country, its size and importance, its economy, its religious diversity and tolerance as well as its inter-religious issues and how these issues relate to Indonesia's democracy.

*Assisting with the **John Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Global Policy Program (GPP)** final capstone project.*

The Global Policy Program (GPP) is a master's degree program designed for mid-career professionals working in international affairs. From November 13-17, 2017, two dozen of SAIS GPP graduate students will be traveling to Indonesia as a part of their final capstone project. In the context of this capstone project, the students will form partnerships with five Indonesia-based organizations and will be conducting research projects on subjects jointly determined with their local partners. While these students are not experts on Indonesia, they are mid-career professionals, and during the time of this residency, will be at the end of their 16-month master's degree programs. This project provides in-country partners with the opportunity to research a policy question that they may not otherwise have the capacity to focus on.

USINDO's role is to connect with a dozen or so organizations in Indonesia that work on issues related to international affairs and policymaking and aggregate a list of contacts to meet with. Field of work include energy/natural resources, education, identity politics, gender issues, security, and beyond.

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](#).

The 2016 LPP marked the last batch of Indonesian parliamentary staffers sent to the U.S. under this program. USINDO hopes to continue the program should there be additional funding available from new donors.

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

In 2017, the Ed Masters Review Committee reviewed a total of six applicants to the prestigious Edward E. Masters Fellowship award. Among the six applicants, two conditional candidates were selected to continue to the next phase of the selection process. The candidate who was the finalist selected this year is Mr. Jhendra Samodra, Directorate of Multilateral Cooperation. He will be the next Ed Masters Fellow, subject to his admission to a top-flight US graduate school.

Ministry of Law and Human Rights

USINDO plays a key role in facilitating the communications and negotiations between the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights in sending 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. This year, with the help of USINDO, the two institutions successfully sent the third batch of Indonesian students for the PROLAW program. 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 2017 PROLAW program are:

1. Mr. Sopi Ahyar
2. Ms. Endang Dwi Wahyuni

Both officials have since departed to Rome to attend their studies starting in September 2017 and are expected to graduate by mid-2018. Under the agreement between The Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the Ministry Law and Human Rights, 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, and Loyola University Chicago has agreed to cover the tuition fee for one student.



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

During seven 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, the Joint Education Council has facilitated nearly 1,000 two-way student exchanges and helped to establish nine new university-to-university partnerships.

Ongoing activities are funded by two corporate grants. The creation of one additional new partnership in chemical and biological engineering between ITB and the University of Colorado is currently being facilitated by the Council and USINDO.

The Council's extensive network has continued to be beneficial to many Indonesian and American counterparts in the education sector. USINDO has continued to facilitate a variety of partnerships and meetings through this network. Recent activities include:

Facilitating meetings between University of Maryland and the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Public Information.

USINDO helped to facilitate a meeting between the University of Maryland and the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Public Information regarding a possible collaboration in developing the organizational design of Indonesia's new Cyber and National Encryption Agency (BSSN) – the organization charged with securing cyber infrastructures deemed critical to economic development and national security. This meeting was held in July 2017 as part of the visit to Indonesia of Dean of the University of Maryland Public Policy School, Robert Orr.

Facilitating meetings between University of Colorado Boulder and the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)

USINDO is helping to facilitate a meeting between University of Colorado Boulder and representatives from the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP). The delegation will be visiting Indonesia in February 2018 to attend a series of EducationUSA sponsored higher education fairs, and are interested in meeting with representatives of the LPDP scholarship program to explore more opportunities to encourage qualified Indonesians to study at Colorado, an LPDP-approved university.

Sumitro Fellows Program

In May 2017, the two Sumitro Fellows from the 2016 group, Ms. Alysson Akiko Oakley and Mr. Faisal Karim, submitted their final Fellowship reports to USINDO. Both Fellows expressed their gratitude for the funding provided by the Sumitro Fellowship as it greatly helped them in conducting their research on U.S. – Indonesia relations.

Mr. Karim was able to use the funds provided by the fellowship to complete his research project on Indonesia as an emerging power within the US-led global order. The funds provided by the fellowship enabled him to conduct fieldwork in Indonesia, Singapore, and the US as well as attend workshops and conferences in Italy, Indonesia, and the US to sharpen the theoretical claims and empirical analysis of the research project. Furthermore, the funds also helped him to complete three research papers that he will be submitting in an international journal.

With the help of the funding from the Sumitro Fellowship, Ms. Oakley expanded her initial field research plan to include two additional trips to Indonesia, as well as two additional trips outside of Jakarta: the first to Bali to participate in the Golkar Extraordinary Congress in May, 2016; and the second to Yogyakarta to interview local political party leaders and civil society leaders in July, 2016. Ms. Oakley is currently working on integrating the data that she has compiled into her ongoing dissertation, with a dissertation defense date anticipated by the end of 2017. When the dissertation is completed and successfully defended, she has planned to turn the work into at least two publications: a book-length manuscript for publication, as well as an article-length publication to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Summer Studies Program

The Summer Studies Program is one of USINDO's flagship programs. Through the program, we intend to introduce and encourage American students to learn more about Indonesia, its language, and its culture. This year, 10 American students from different backgrounds and universities participated in the 2017 USINDO Summer Studies program. They were eager to immerse themselves in learning Indonesian language and enhancing their understanding of Indonesia. Out of the 10 participants, three already had intermediate proficiency in Bahasa Indonesia prior to the program, while the rest had little to no previous exposure to Bahasa Indonesia.

The 2017 USINDO Summer Studies Program featured several improvements from the previous year's program, such as the addition of a new level (upper intermediate level) on the language program for those who already had some proficiency in Bahasa Indonesia. We also added new institutions to our volunteering program and prepared a post-program agenda according to the students' backgrounds, interests, as well as contemporary issues.

The students' activities in Yogyakarta consisted of language classes, out-of-class tutorials with tutors, cultural workshops, and special lectures. We offered five choices of cultural workshops, which were Javanese Gamelan, Traditional Dance, Indonesian Dishes Cooking, Batik Making and Traditional Martial Arts or Silat. This year, the special lectures discussed local governance, democratization and efforts against radicalism, interfaith relations, and small-medium enterprise. The students also embarked on field trips to The Borobudur Temple, the Merapi Mountain, the historic quarter of Kota Gede, and the Mangunan Valley.

For the Jakarta program, USINDO's Jakarta Office organized the post-program agenda without cooperating with external partners. This decision allowed us more freedom to organize the post-program schedule and tailor it to better fit the students' interests. This year, USINDO successfully arranged for students to meet with several prominent public figures, such as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the President; Deputy Speaker of The House, Indonesian House of Representatives; Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Jakarta; former Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chief Representative of Bower Group Asia; and Chairperson of Arus Pelangi, an NGO that advocates for the rights of LGBTQ communities in Indonesia.

2017 Summer Studies Program



Students created Batik patterns in cultural workshop.



Students having a group study in the library.



Students and tutors from Sanata Dharma University celebrate the 4th of July



Students and tutors during field trip to the Borobudur Temple.



Students studying Bahasa Indonesia in class.



Student Gibson Haynes with his host family.



Students met with the Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Brian McFeeters, US Embassy



Students had a discussion with Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Hassan Wirajuda



Students met with Dr. Yanuar Nugroho, Executive Office of the President.



At Kota Tua, the students got interviewed by local schoolgirls.



Students at Museum Wayang as part of their post-program visit.



Discussion with Hon. Fadli Zon, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellows Program

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 Spring 2017 and Fall 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 attend an 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. After the program, all participants 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 2017 Spring PFP was held from April 22 - June 3, 2017. The delegates were selected by a panel consisting of representatives from USINDO, ACYPL, and U.S. Embassy Jakarta. The selected applicants were:

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

The 2017 Fall PFP is currently under way from October 7 – November 17, 2017. The selected delegates are:

1. Erwin Sipahutar
Coordinator of Knowledge Governance Division, Southeast Asia Institute for Forest and People Studies
2. Anindita Listya
Anti-Corruption Specialist, The House of Representatives of The Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI)
3. Mohammad Nurdin
Executive Assistant to Mayor of Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan Province, Indonesia
4. Alexander Nainggolan
Internal Auditor, Ministry of Industry of The Republic of Indonesia
5. Michael Sianipar
Personal Assistant to the Governor, Provincial Government of Jakarta

USINDO is currently preparing for the upcoming 2018 Spring 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.

Since its establishment in August 2016, the Council with the assistance of USINDO, has conducted extensive research in identifying potential donors to fund the programs of the Council's three Working Groups. From this research, the Council has had two opportunities to formulate funding proposals to two highly potential donors: U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Carpenter Foundation. The Council also expects to submit funding proposals to three other highly potential organizations which have upcoming submission deadlines.

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:

Outreach Meeting with Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs on October 2016 and Planning of 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 included a possible visit in mid-2017 by the Minister of Religious Affairs to the U.S. Although the trip was eventually postponed to a later date, the Council significantly assisted in the planning of the activities and meetings for the Minister and his delegation.

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.



Discussion Meeting with Ministry of Political, Legal and Security Affairs – July 31, 2017

On July 31, 2017, the Council facilitated a meeting between Prof. Brett Scharffs, Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies and Professor of Law at Brigham Young University, and Amb. Lutfi Rauf from the Coordinating Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs. Prof. Scharffs, accompanied by Ibu Yenny Wahid as Indonesian Co-Chair of the CRP, was able to have an open discussion and exchange notes with Amb. Lutfi Rauf on several recent issues concerning religion and the law in Indonesia. Through the meeting, Prof. Scharffs was able to share his insight on the matter from an American perspective and discuss with Amb. Rauf his opinions of how the law affects civil society, political affairs, and the freedom of association and expression in both countries.

Open Forum on Relations between Religious Majorities, Minorities, and the State in US and Indonesia – July 31, 2017

In cooperation with USINDO, SETARA Institute, and Wahid Foundation, the Council co-hosted a Special Open Forum on the “Relations between Religious Majorities, Minorities, and the State in US and Indonesia: Current Trends & Issues”. The discussion focused on the dynamics between religious majorities, minorities, and the government as well as the factors contributing to the growth of radicalism in both the US and Indonesia. Recommendations were also made towards the eradication of hate speech and the proliferation of tolerant perspectives.

Meeting with International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Delegation in Washington D.C. – September 13, 2017

The Council has sparked interest not only in Jakarta, but also in Washington D.C., where it hosted a meeting with a delegation of 10 Islamic school teachers and administrators from Indonesia visiting the U.S. under the U.S. State Department’s IVLP program. This particular IVLP project, which carried the theme of Faith Based Education, sought to introduce educators, administrators, and policymakers involved in Indonesia’s Islamic education system to religious education and life in America. The delegation met with USINDO President, Amb. David Merrill on September 13, 2017 and had an engaging discussion on issues of religion and pluralism, as well as the Council’s work in religious education. The delegation also continued on to visit Al-Fatih Islamic School, one of the most innovative U.S. models of Islamic religious education in the US, based on Amb. Merrill’s recommendations.

USINDO Website Redesign

As part of USINDO's efforts to enhance its online presence, USINDO is redesigning its website to a more professional, user-friendly and mobile-friendly site that will be easily accessible to audiences from both countries and around the world. The website is currently in the final stages of development and we expect to launch it by mid-November 2017. Below are some snapshots of the website as it is currently being developed. Once completed, this website will be accessible at www.usindo.org.

Homepage:



Summer Studies Page:



Indonesia – U.S. Council on Religion & Pluralism Page:



USINDO Galas Page:



-- End of President's Report --

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