

2018



USINDO 2018 Legislative Partnership Program

The Legislative Partnership Program and Planned 2018 Program

USINDO's Legislative Partnership Program (LPP) is a USINDO partnership with the Indonesian Parliament (DPR) to strengthen the professional capacity and expertise of DPR legislative staff in their subject matter areas and in how to develop well-considered and effective laws.

The program brings DPR committee and legislative staff to the U.S. for a one-week concentrated work and study program with U.S. House of Representatives committee staff, Congressional research resources, and outside subject matter experts and professional associations in the DPR committee's subject matter areas.

Skills developed include how to conduct comprehensive policy research and incorporate viewpoints of relevant stakeholders, including the public hearings process, so that legislation is fully knowledge-based and has the effect intended.

The program includes work assignments to translate the skills acquired into a practical capacity building exercise. There is also the option for selected participants to stay on for an additional two-week legislative intern program on Capitol Hill. USINDO provides program oversight in Washington and through our Jakarta office.

The program has been seen as helpful not only to the capacity of the specific committees concerned, but also to the parliament's overall capacity to play its check and balance role effectively, strengthening Indonesia's democratic governance institutions. LPP is the only US-Indonesia program strengthening the capacity of the DPR's legislative staff.

LPP was conducted in March 2014 with Komisi 1 (International Affairs and Defense); a second program was held in November 2016 with Komisi 11 (Finance, Banking Trade, and National Development).

As agreed with the DPR Secretariat, the third program is planned to be conducted in 2018 with Komisi VII (Energy, Mineral Resources, Research and Technology and Environment).

The 2018 LPP Program's concentration on the key issues of Energy and Mineral Resources aligns with the increasingly important discussions on revised energy and mineral resources bills currently being drafted in the DPR, including draft legislation on Revision of Law (RUU) Number 30 Year 2001 on Energy which was included in the DPR's list of priority bills to be discussed during 2015 – 2019, RUU Number 22 Year 2001 on Oil and Gas, and RUU Number 4 Year 2009 on Mineral and Coal Mining. The last two bills are included in the DPR's 2018 list of priority bills to be passed in this year (*Program Legislasi Nasional /Prolegnas 2018*).

Depending on the availability of new funds, USINDO and the DPR intend to send a total of eight qualified Indonesian parliamentary staff members to participate in the 2018 program, along with representatives from ministries dealing with Indonesia's Energy and Natural Resources issues. We anticipate that after participating in the 2018 LPP, these individuals

will bring back the relevant knowledge and skills needed to make positive contributions to Indonesia's legislative development in the Energy and Mineral Resources sector.

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Appendix: Additional Information

The Program

USINDO's Legislative Partnership Program (LPP) is designed to provide professional training for DPR staff to support the DPR's capacity to play its growing role in Indonesia's democratic governance. It is a USINDO-initiated program that improves the legislative and democracy building sector of the U.S. - Indonesia Strategic Partnership, on a neutral professional basis. Working through public-private initiative, LPP also demonstrates how the private and non-governmental sectors can take needed steps on their own to assist Indonesia's democratic development.

USINDO operates the program and assures its quality. Support for the program comes from US and Indonesian corporations and foundations who are friends of Indonesia and wish to support the enhanced professional capacity of its parliament to engage in the issues Indonesia is facing.

The program consists of one week of concentrated exposure to the U.S. Congressional practices for professional staff and committee management, comprehensive policy research, and multi-stakeholder engagement in various areas of interests between U.S. and Indonesia. There is also a possibility for selected participants from the group to stay on for an additional two-week program of legislative internship on Capitol Hill as a "USINDO Fellow". The program also includes practical work assignments or project to translate the knowledge they received during the week into a capacity building exercise.

LPP's participants are the secretariat staffs or staff political advisors of the DPR who play a strategic role in their current position. They must be between the ages of 25-50, have more than five years government or parliament-related work experience, and survive a rigorous selection process including independent professional panel interviews.

Each delegation that travels to the U.S. will:

- A. Enhance the professional capacity of Indonesian parliamentary staff in core areas of the legislative process such as work of the committees, use of congressional research, holding hearings, using outside witnesses and expert information sources, and preparing effective legislation.
- B. Increase the exposure of Indonesian parliamentary staff to U.S. Congressional staff and U.S. experts in key issue areas.
- C. Enhance interaction between Indonesian parliamentary staff and their U.S Congressional counterparts, as well as create opportunities to exchange ideas, knowledge and experience; and develop their networks.

Apart from this, the LPP also provides for a mutual exchange of knowledge for the American stakeholders involved in the program, whereby it allows American speakers and presenters involved in the program to learn more about Indonesia and have the chance to

compare and reflect on their own legislation, as well as raises awareness on Capitol Hill about Indonesia and its different legislative system.

Results of Past LPP Delegations (2014 & 2016)

The inaugural LPP delegation in 2014 concentrated on Foreign Affairs, whereby participants included Commission 1 staff on Foreign Affairs, Defense, Communication, and Informatics. The second delegation in 2016 concentrated on the topics of Economics, Finance, Banking, and Trade.

The first delegation in 2014 concentrated on substantive foreign affairs issues between the U.S. and Indonesia. Participants discussed the status of the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership and the roles and opportunities for governments, legislatures, and NGOs with U.S. and Indonesian Executive Branch officials. They were also privileged to meet and discuss with high ranking U.S. Congressional Members, such as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), Edward Royce, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Rep. Steve Chabot.



USINDO Legislative Partnership Program participants meeting with Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), Edward Royce (R-CA).



Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH), speaks with participants about Congressional views on Indonesia.

During the 2014 program, three participants were selected to remain in Washington for additional three-week internships in U.S. Congressional offices as “USINDO Fellows”. They were assigned to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and Representative Joseph Crowley’s office based on their areas of expertise. During the internships, the Fellows learned first-hand about Committee jurisdiction, daily Congressional processes, district management and co-engagement, and the importance of legislative-constituency relations. The Fellows also attended NGO and think tank panels and briefings, conducted policy research, and observed Committee activities and hearings.

Meanwhile, the participants of the second LPP delegation in 2016 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 gained impressions of the election and its implications as seen by the U.S. Congress.

The 2016 delegates were also 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. He said as a former Congressional political staffer himself, he recognizes the unique set of skills that staff bring to enhance Representatives' knowledge, helping the members make their final decisions.



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

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.



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

Aside from specific substantive issues, the Indonesian participants in both LPP delegations also learned practical knowledge and insights directly from their U.S. counterparts on topics such as 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.

The program exposed participants to the importance of coordination and communication between committee, personal, and support system staff in enhancing the quality of Congressional work. The program imparted the importance of professionalism, transparency, accountability, effectiveness and a systematic process, while maintaining flexibility needed to achieve the intended objectives.



**Meeting with Congressional
Budget Office**



**Dialogue with Panel of Experts
from Congressional Research
Service**

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.



Participants preparing for their final workshop presentations



2016 LPP Participants during Cultural Tour of Washington D.C.

Participant evaluations indicated that both delegations greatly appreciated the valuable opportunities USINDO's Legislative Partnership Program afforded them. Working with their American peers enabled participants to foster Congressional networks, learn the inner workings of Congress, compare Congressional functions to the Indonesian parliament, and reflect on how the U.S. Legislative Branch may have elements useful for its Indonesian counterpart such as voting processes, public hearings, and the work of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). They also built a network of U.S. Congressional contacts which will serve them well in future and promote interaction with the Indonesian parliament.



2014 LPP participants receive their program certificates from USINDO President David Merrill.

The program also offered participants the chance to directly experience a new culture and interact with Americans. For many participants, their experience in the LPP was their first time in the U.S. and became an eye-opening opportunity for them to see the actual nature of America's multicultural and multi-religious society.