



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The United States – Indonesia Society

DECEMBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2020

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Gala Dinner

USINDO's 2020 Gala Dinner "U.S.-Indonesia Economic Relations 2020: Seizing the Potential for Trade and Investment"

February 13, 2020, Washington D.C.

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

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



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

Watch the Videos [here](#).

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

USINDO Special Events

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

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

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



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

Watch the Video [here](#).

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

Following up the February Dialogue, we started convening small stakeholder discussions with the governments aimed at discussing and making progress on selected sectoral issues. We held a small Zoom discussion June 11 on trade and investment with coordinating Minister Luhut, Vice Minister Mahendra, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David R. Stilwell, a representative of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and interested companies. Future such meetings may take place on specific issues needing action-oriented discussion in a government-private format.

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

3. U.S.-Indonesia “Track 1.5” Economic Strategy Dialogue

February 13, 2020 in Washington D.C.



USINDO was pleased to facilitate the first US-Indonesia “Track 1.5” Economic Strategy Dialogue, in cooperation with CSIS, on ways to make further progress on bilateral trade and investment over the next five years. As a “Track 1.5” dialogue, it brought together key representatives of the two governments, corporate leaders, substantive experts, and non-government organization leaders to pool their

thoughts on the best way forward. We see our role in facilitating this kind of participatory discussion on U.S.-Indonesia issues as at the core of USINDO's mission.

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

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

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

4. Farewell Reception for the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, H.E. Joseph R. Donovan, Jr.

January 28, 2020 in Jakarta

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

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).



5. Tribute with Ibu Adiati Siregar to the contribution to USINDO of the late Professor Dr. Arifin Siregar, USINDO Indonesian Co-Chair Emeritus
January 28, 2020 in Jakarta



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

Open Forum and Webinar Series

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

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

October 1, 2020



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

Speakers:

Casimir A. Yost

Senior Fellow at the Institute for Study and Diplomacy, Georgetown University
Former Senior Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Jonah Blank

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

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

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

May 7, 2020

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

The webinar featured six top experts:

Katherine Marshall

Senior Fellow, Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs

Imam Mohamed Magid

Executive Director, ADAMS Center

Prof. Azyumardi Azra, CBE

Senior Professor of Islamic History and Culture
Former rector Syarif Hidayatullah State Foundation

Yenny Wahid

Executive Director, Wahid Foundation

Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang

Chair of Advisory Board, Communion of Churches Indonesia

Dr. Siti Ruhaini Dzuhayatin

Senior Advisor to Deputy V, Executive Office of the Presidential Staff, Republic of Indonesia



Watch a 15-minute video of highlights of the webinar [here](#).

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

3. Open Forum on “Accelerating the Growth of U.S.-Indonesia Trade and Investment”

December 13, 2019 in Jakarta

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

Speakers:

Muhammad Lutfi

Former Chairman of BKPM

Former Minister of Trade

Sunny J. Park

Regional Director and Assistant General

Counsel for Corporate, External & Legal

Affairs, Microsoft Asia Pacific

Douglas Ramage

Managing Director, Bower Group Asia

Watch the Open Forum [here](#).

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).



Education, Capacity Building Programs and Grants

Grant Proposal for Capacity-Building Program in Journalism

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

Grant Proposal for New LPDP-Related Education Initiative

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

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

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

Legislative Partnership Program

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

LPP was first conducted in March 2014 with DPR's Committee I of **Foreign Affairs and Defense**. The second program was held in November 2016 with Committee XI of **Finance, Banking Trade and National Development**.

The third LPP will be for select expert staff from DPR's Committee VII. **Energy, Mineral Resources, Research and Technology, and the Environment.** We are planning this program for 2021.

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

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

Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program

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

2020-2021 Edward E. Masters Fellow



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

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

USINDO's Planned Professional Fellows Program (PFP)

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

To finance the program, USINDO will charge a small fee from partner organization. USINDO is also planning to arrange a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with

Indonesia's Chamber of Commerce (KADIN), to assist us in contacting Indonesian companies.

Summer Studies Program

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

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

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

ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellowship Program

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

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

The selected delegates for the 2019 Fall PFP are:

- 1. Andry Dewanto**

West Nusa Tenggara Chief of Tourism Promotion at Youth, Sumbawa Regency

2. Maidina Rahmawati

Researcher, Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR)

3. Razi Sabardi

Senior Associate, Board of Commissioners General Election Commission

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

KEMLU's Webinar Series on Skills Enhancement for Young Diplomats

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

1. **"International Refugee Diplomacy"** featuring **Eric Schwartz, President of Refugees International, Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration**
November 2020
2. **"Diplomatic Practices in the Middle East"** featuring **Ambassador Jake Walles, Former U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia and Consul General in Jerusalem**
October 27, 2020
3. **"International Cybersecurity Diplomacy"** featuring **Chris Painter, Former Senior Director of Cyber Policy and Acting Cyber Coordinator, National Security Council**
September 16, 2020
4. **"Strategic Management and Leadership for KEMLU's Senior Diplomats"** featuring **Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr.**
August 24, 2020
5. **"Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Diplomats and Foreign Policy Decision Makers"** featuring **Professor Robert McMahon, Ralph D. Mershon Distinguished Professor, Ohio State University**
August 14, 2020
6. **"Investing in Multilateralism and Global Governance"** featuring **Ambassador Alex Wolff, Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations**
July 23, 2020
7. **"Crafting Commercial Diplomacy: Lessons Learned and Best Practices from the U.S. Experiences"** featuring **Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr.**
June 25, 2020

Indonesia - U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism

The Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism is an independent, bi-national, non-governmental body to undertake joint programs to share and promote the values of pluralism, diversity and tolerance. It was established in Yogyakarta in August 2016 and was endorsed by President Jokowi and President Obama. The Council consists of a select group of committed non-government leaders from the religious, academic, media, and civil society sectors from Indonesia and the United States.

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

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

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

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

May 7, 2020

Please see page 7 for the event’s report.

Online Presence

Website Revamp

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

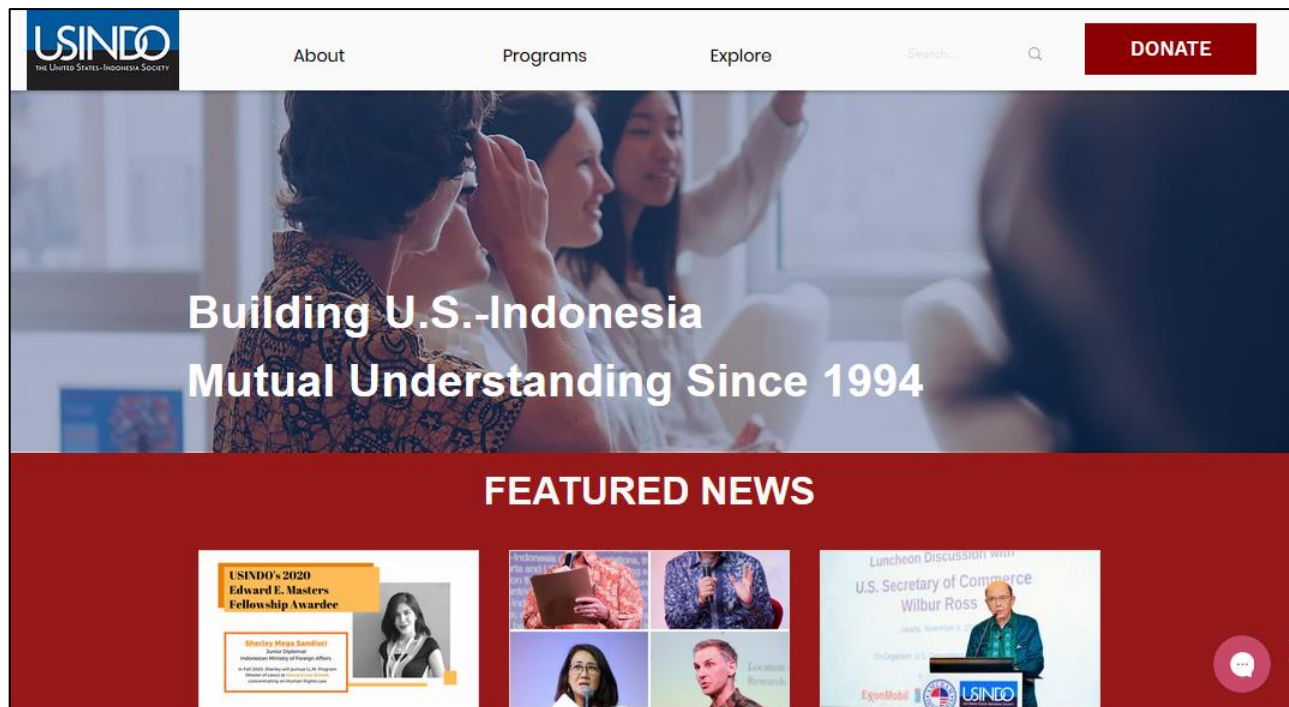


Figure 1 - Sketch of the top of the homepage



Figure 2 - Sketch of the Programs page



Figure 3 - Sketch of the Summer Studies page

Social Media Presence

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

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

We aim to improve our outreach toward new audiences. Visit USINDO's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Flickr](#), [Youtube](#) and [Twitter](#).

A. Instagram



Sample Instagram Post:

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

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

B. Facebook



Sample Facebook Post:

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

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

C. LinkedIn



Sample LinkedIn Post:

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

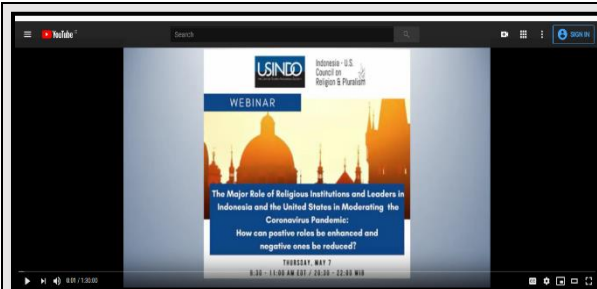
For registration and more information about the event, please click this link
<http://bit.do/usindoevent>.

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

D. Flickr



E. YouTube




Sample YouTube Video Post:


USINDO's Webinar on Religion and COVID Pandemic - May 7, 2020

USINDO and the Indonesia-US Council of Religion and Pluralism held a bi-national webinar on "The Major Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Indonesia and the United States in Moderating the Coronavirus Pandemic: How Can Positive Roles be Enhanced and Negative Ones Reduced?"

F. Twitter

**USINDO**
@USINDO

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



4:22 PM · Oct 6, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Sample Twitter Post:

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

-- End of President's Report --

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