



**2024**

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

**THE UNITED STATES - INDONESIA  
SOCIETY**

**November 2023 - May 2024**



<https://usindo.org>



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## Video on USINDO Selected Current Programs (Eight minutes)

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### **Selected Current Programs**

<https://bit.ly/USINDOProgramsVideo>

## **USINDO Special Events**

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USINDO Special Events provide in-depth understanding of significant political and economic developments or issues affecting Indonesia or US-Indonesia relations.

### **USINDO Special 2024 Presidential Elections Series**

USINDO held its special, three-part Presidential Elections Series in Washington in January 2024, providing each Indonesian coalition running for President and Vice President in a balanced, neutral format to provide our keenly interested audience a direct insight into their vision for Indonesia's future.



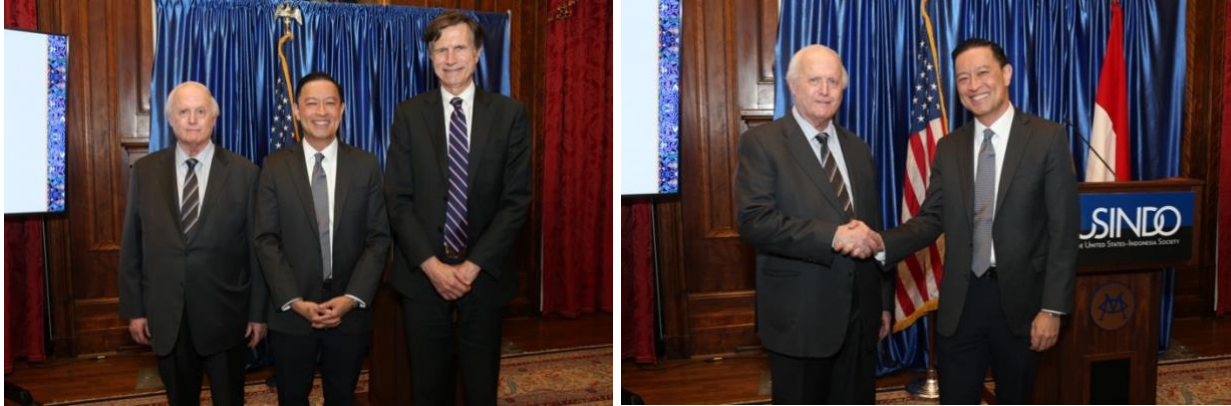
**General Andika Perkasa**, Deputy Chairman of the National Winning Team Coalition of Governor Ganjar Pranowo/Mahfud, MD spoke at the USINDO Special Election Series January 9, 2024, at the Metropolitan Club. This is the [link](#) to the video.





**Tom Lembong**, Senior Advisor of the Coalition of Change for Unity of Anies Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar, spoke to the audience in Washington, D.C. at the Metropolitan Club on January 11, 2024. This is the [link](#) to the video.





**Hashim Djojhadikusumo**, Chairman of the Volunteer Advisory Board of Presidential candidate Lt.Gen. (Ret.) Prabowo Subianto and Vice-Presidential candidate Gibran Rakabuming Raka Coalition spoke at the USINDO Special Election Series on January 12, 2024. This is the [link](#) to the video.



More...

# Special Open Forums

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USINDO fosters public dialogue through its Open Forums, engaging distinguished experts, academics, and policymakers to deepen understanding between Indonesia and the United States. These discussions explore shared challenges. They provide a platform for direct interaction with subject matter experts on political, security, and economic issues facing each country and shaping U.S.-Indonesia relations.

## Special Forum on Advancing Indonesia's Energy Transition

USINDO hosted The Honorable Rachmat Kaimuddin, Indonesian Deputy Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment for Infrastructure and Transport Coordination, as our guest in-person speaker on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

As Deputy Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investments for Infrastructure and Transport Coordination, and Chief of Indonesia's National Energy Task Force, Pak Rachmat also co-leads Indonesia's Joint Office for Energy Transition in the Power Sector, established in January by the National Energy Transition Task Force. The office drives the implementation of energy transition strategies in the power sector, aligning with Indonesia's objective to achieve net zero emissions by 2060 or earlier.

Pak Rachmat briefed USINDO's audience on his discussions with the U.S. Government regarding the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) and environmental matters.

We were also honored that the U.S. Special Deputy Envoy for Climate Change, Rick Duke, and Chief Climate Officer of the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Jake Levine, graciously participated as Special USG Panelists, offering authoritative insights from the U.S. Government's perspective on these critical issues.





**Special Open Forum on Indonesia's 2024 Presidential Election:  
The Competing Coalitions, Dynamics, Current Polls, Key Issues  
November 30, 2023**



**SPECIAL OPEN FORUM ON  
INDONESIA'S 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:  
The Competing Coalitions, Dynamics,  
Current Polls, and Key Issues**

<p><b>Panelist</b></p>  <p><b>Adam Schwarz</b></p>	<p><b>Featured Speaker</b></p>  <p><b>Dr. Djayadi Hanan</b></p>	<p><b>Panelist</b></p>  <p><b>Dr. I Ketut Putra Erawan</b></p>
<p>CEO Asia Group Advisors Singapore</p>	<p>Head of Political Science Ph.D. Program Indonesian International Islamic University Executive Director, Lembaga Survei Indonesia (LSI)</p>	<p>Executive Director Institute for Peace and Democracy, Bali</p>
 Thursday, Nov 30, 2023	 9:00 AM EDT / 21:00 WIB Online by Zoom	<p><b>REGISTER NOW!</b> <a href="#">Click Here</a></p>

On Thursday, November 30, 2023, USINDO hosted a compelling discussion explaining the process of the 2024 Presidential Elections featuring Dr. Djayadi Hanan, Head of the Political Science Ph.D. Program at the Indonesian International Islamic University and Executive Director of Lembaga Survei Indonesia (LSI).

Dr. Hanan was joined by Adam Schwarz, CEO of Asia Group Advisors and Dr. I Ketut Putra Erawan, Executive Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy and Special Advisor at Warmadewa University.

## Open Forum on Understanding Indonesian Terrorism: Current Trends, Causes, Policy Implications – July 2023



**OPEN FORUM**

**Understanding Indonesian Terrorism: Current Trends, Causes, Policy Implications**

**Dr. Julie Chernov Hwang**  
Associate Professor of Political Science & International Relations  
Goucher College

Thursday, July 20, 2023

9:00 AM EDT / 20:00 WIB  
Online by Zoom

**REGISTER NOW!**

Link in Bio

Despite the absence of major terrorist attacks in recent years, Indonesia faces an ongoing threat of terrorism. The government has responded with extensive anti-terrorism campaigns, including mass arrests of domestic extremists. Current policies indefinitely detain those Indonesian ISIS-connected family members still left in Syrian camps – protecting Indonesia for the present but presenting a problematic issue for the future.

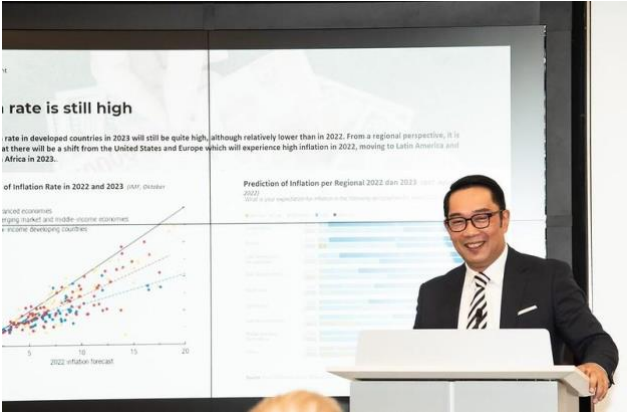
USINDO hosted an Open Forum on this challenging topic July 20, 2023, featuring Dr. Julie Chernov Hwang, Associate Professor of Political Science, and International Relations at Goucher College and author of *“Becoming Jihadis: Radicalization and Commitment in Southeast Asia.”* Dr. Hwang gave insight into why Indonesians join Jihadi groups, and the process of disengagement and eventual reintegration into Indonesian society.

The recording of this event is [here](#).

# Special Open Forum on “New Frontiers in Indonesian Development”: West Java Governor Ridwan Kamil

USINDO hosted a Special Open Forum to discuss the innovations in economic development in West Java, featuring Special Guest, Ridwan Kamil, Governor of West Java to discuss his insights into the innovations in economic development occurring in the region and how it is an example for Indonesian development. This Special Open Forum was held in-person in Washington DC, on Friday, May 5, 2023.

The recording of this event is [here](#).



## Special Open Forum on Indonesia's New Capital City: Opportunities and Challenges

As one of the world's largest and most congested cities, Jakarta's vulnerability to rising sea levels and other climate change impacts led to the development of a new plan to build a New Capital City, "Nusantara," in East Kalimantan. This ambitious plan, focused on constructing a more smart, green, and sustainable New Capital City sought to disperse growth, development, and opportunities in Kalimantan.

In collaboration with the Stimson Center, USINDO hosted a Special Open Forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges of this new plan, featuring Special Guest Dr Bambang Susantono, Chairman of the Nusantara Capital City Authority of the Republic of Indonesia. This Joint Open Forum was held on Monday, March 20, 2023, both live in Washington DC and remote, with over 400 registrants.

The recording of this event is [here](#).



# USINDO Education Programs

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## USAID Higher Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI)

HEPI is a five-year collaboration between the United States and Indonesia, fostering connections between U.S. universities, Indonesian prospective students in the U.S., and Indonesian academic programs. It facilitates enrollment of Indonesians in U.S. graduate schools and increases the utilization of the Indonesian Government's vast and vital scholarship program (LPDP).

Since August 2022, under an award from Arizona State University (ASU), USINDO has been designing and implementing unique educational programs under the USAID HEPI project. USINDO supports the goals of HEPI to create an improved curriculum leading to US study and to equip students with the guidance and preparation they need to apply, be accepted, and complete their academic studies at U.S. universities.

USINDO's Self-Designed "Graduate School Application Preparation" (GRASP) program consists of:

More...

### Interactive Zoom Sessions (IZS)

IZS connect prospective Indonesian students with representatives from U.S. universities with the goal of increasing the number of Indonesian students enrolled at U.S. universities, providing them with valuable insights into academic programs and opportunities.

### Critical Thinking and Digital Literacy (CTDL)

CTDL courses equip Indonesian young professionals and university students with critical thinking and digital literacy skills for successful applications and academic experiences at U.S. graduate schools. The courses have significantly impacted participants, preparing them for success both in and out of the classroom.

### Leaders in Education Advancement and Digital Literacy (LEAD)

LEAD course is specifically tailored to improve the critical thinking and digital literacy skills of Indonesian university lecturers while exploring the integration of problem-based learning and project-based learning into their courses, thus promoting the sustainability of CTDL goal.

## Impactful Outcomes

- From November 2023 to April 2024, USINDO successfully conducted 14 Interactive Zoom Sessions with U.S. higher education institutions: University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington, Purdue, Brown, Stanford, Cornell, USC, Ohio State, Duke, University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign, Georgia Institute of Technology, UC San Diego, Washington University in St. Louis, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to that these calls were held with many other U.S. universities.
- Such sessions bridged communication between some 850 Indonesian university students and young professionals and U.S. universities, motivating more students to consider pursuing their education in the United States.

- The U.S. embassy reported in Nov 2023 that in 2023 **the number of Indonesian students pursuing graduate study in the United States increased by 22%**.
- Although without expert studies USINDO cannot claim direct causality between USINDO's programs and these results, we believe our programs aimed at this goal played a helpful role in this achievement for U.S.- Indonesian educational relations.
- We are now beginning to design programs that will help Indonesian students who are completing their Master's Degrees in the U.S. to be linked with job opportunities in Indonesia upon their return.

Sample announcement for Interactive Zoom Session:

USAID HEPI USINDO UC San Diego

**USINDO GRASP**  
Grad School Application Preparation

**U.S. GRADUATE SCHOOL SERIES**

**Studying in  
University of  
California San Diego  
with LPDP Scholarship**

○ ○ ○ ○

Your chance to interact directly with representatives and current students from the University of California San Diego!

**Audrey Phillips**  
Director of MBA Admissions and Recruitment  
Rady School of Management

**Sonja Steinbrech**  
Director of Admissions  
School of Global Policy & Strategy

**Audrey Phillips**  
Current Student, Class of 2024  
Master of Business Administration (MBA) [concl.]  
Rady School of Management  
LPDP Awardee

LIVE STREAMING VIA ZOOM

OPEN FOR PUBLIC FREE EVENT

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
8:30 - 10:00 PM WIB**

**REGISTER NOW**  
usindograsp.eventbrite.com

Hear from the representatives and sign up for our Grad School Series! (Link in bio)

@USINDO @theusindo



## **Student comment:**

*“I thoroughly enjoyed the session; the content was presented concisely, making it interesting. Dr. Sonja’s willingness to help with the application waiver, along with Prof. Bazzi’s research projects and experience in Southeast Asia and Indonesia, made me interested in applying for the GSP MPP. Overall, it was a fruitful and encouraging experience. Thanks to USINDO team for facilitating!” – **Elita Yunanda (participant)***

## **Critical Thinking and Digital Literacy Course**

This USINDO-designed course offered six intensive 90-minute sessions to apply and practice critical thinking (CT) and digital literacy (DL) skills necessary for successfully completing U.S. graduate school applications and thriving in academic environments at U.S. institutions.

It was designed to be highly interactive and digitally rigorous, simulating U.S. graduate-level classrooms group discussions, peer review exercises, multimedia group tasks, periodic self-evaluations, reflections, and writing practices.

As of May 2024, USINDO operated seven groups of CT/DL courses for Young Professionals (enrolling 264 participants) and two groups of CT/DL courses for university students (67 participants)

Selected success stories from our CT/DL course participants:

- Marsha Fabiola was accepted by Teachers College, Columbia University and Steinhardt School of Business, New York University.
- Aulia Kurniaputri was accepted by MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning for the Fall 2023 intake.
- Teuku Pavel Henrico was accepted at Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University.

## **Leaders in Education Advancement and Digital Literacy (LEAD)**

Launched in November 2023, USINDO has successfully developed the pilot “LEAD” program, which offers an immersive program comprising eight sessions tailored to enhance the capacity of three Indonesian university hubs: BINUS, ITB, and UNHAS,

and 15 university affiliates, (selected by Arizona State University) to implement Project-based Learning in their classroom, especially in STEM.



In February 2024, the final session of LEAD focused on sharing experiences in applying “Project Based Learning” in the participants’ own lessons. Participants were guided in developing action plans to further enhance and refine student-centered approaches in STEM teaching. The LEAD pilot engaged a total of 31 participants, many of whom praised the program quality.

### **Upcoming USINDO Education Activities: USAID-ASU-USINDO project:**

In July 2024, USINDO will host a U.S. Graduate School Fair in three major cities: Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya. The aim of this in-person event is to connect aspiring Indonesian young professionals and university students directly with representatives from U.S. universities eligible for LPDP. Twenty U.S. higher education institutions are expected to participate in these fairs.

USINDO will also upgrade and strengthen the Interactive Zoom Sessions:

- We transition the focus from students themselves, to facilitating partnerships between Indonesian universities and US-Indonesia Higher Education Institutions, for broader long-term impact.
- For individual students, the previous general Critical Thinking sessions will now be tailored to individual student needs through “Targeted Advising Group” (TAG) sessions, mainly for LPDP awardees. These practices emphasize providing one-on-one essay guidance for U.S. graduate admission.

## YSEALI Professional Fellows Program

USINDO is the trusted in-country partner of American Councils for International Education and the U.S. State Department for the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program. As a U.S. government flagship initiative, the YSEALI program offers leadership and professional development opportunities under four themes: Civic Engagement, Economic Empowerment, Governance and Society, and Sustainable Development and the Environment.



*YSEALI PFP Cycle 1 2024 | Photo credit: Randiano Tamelan*

As a program partner, USINDO provides support for the outreach, selection, and pre-departure administrative processes of YSEALI's Professional Fellows Program.

From over 550 applicants, 20 outstanding young professionals have been selected. They will spend four weeks in a tailored fellowship experience, working with host organizations across non-profit, public, or private sectors in the United States. The Fellows will also engage in community service activities with U.S. communities.

YSEALI PFP Cycle 2 is scheduled to run from September to October 2024.

## Edward E. Master's Fellowship Program

Over the past decade USINDO has collaborated with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide joint funding and selection for graduate-level education of Indonesian officials, in a Fellowship honoring USINDO's Founder, Ambassador Edward E. Masters. This program gains fellow's placement for MA degrees at top US graduate schools.

21 junior diplomats and one mid-career diplomat have become Ed Masters Fellows at top-tier U.S. graduate programs in international affairs and international law.

### Our 2024- 2025 Edward E. Masters Fellow



In March 2024, the Ed Masters Review Committee of representatives from USINDO and KEMLU selected M. Adam Aprisal as the recipient of the 2024-2025 Edward E. Masters Fellowship Award, taking into account his professional accomplishments, leadership potential, and academic excellence among others.

Adam was previously stationed in Vientiane, Laos in the Economic Section at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia from 2019 to 2022. He currently serves as Head of Section for Protocol Support to the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In Fall 2024 he will begin the special one-year mid-career Master of Arts program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

## Summer Studies Program

USINDO's flagship Summer Studies Program, supported by the Freeman Foundation and by a donor bequest fund to USINDO for education, has for over 25 years provided young Americans a unique cultural immersion and language exchange experience in Indonesia with the aim to foster deeper U.S.-Indonesia engagement. Most participants have gone on to careers involving US-Indonesia relations.

For the 2024 Summer Studies program, ten American students who come from diverse academic backgrounds have been selected for an intensive ten-week language and cultural program in Yogyakarta and Jakarta from June 4 - August 9, 2024.

USINDO is partnering once more with PCMI Yogyakarta and the Indonesian Language and Culture Intensive Course (ILCIC) at Sanata Dharma University to provide a variety of programs. These encompass experiential classrooms, cultural workshops, and interactive Bahasa Indonesia classes, all designed to create an immersive experience for participants.

Improvements have been made in teaching methods for beginner-level students and enhancing conversational skills relevant and useful for daily interactions.

This program will continue in 2025.

## Online Presence

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USINDO is committed to enhancing our social media footprint through consistent activity across Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Efforts to boost USINDO's social media visibility were intensified in April – May which saw an increase of 172.9% of accounts reached in the one-month period on Instagram alone. Collectively across all our social media channels, USINDO boasts over 15,800 followers as of May 2024.

USINDO's social media efforts are supported through our mailing lists, partner organization programs, and our USINDO Daily News.

Visit USINDO's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Website](#),

More....

## Instagram and Facebook

USAID HEPI USINDO Georgia Tech

**USINDO GRASP**  
Grad School Application Preparation

**U.S. GRADUATE SCHOOL SERIES**

**Studying in Georgia Institute of Technology with LPDP Scholarship**

@USINDO @theusindo

Swipe for more information!

**USINDO GRASP**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION PREPARATION MINI INTENSIVE COURSE

**Farah**  
Master of Laws at USC (Batch 6 Alumni)

Hello USINDO team!  
I just want to express my gratitude and share the good news. I just got accepted at USC Gould School of Law in the Privacy Law and Cybersecurity LL.M. Program this Fall! In addition to that, I'm also offered a scholarship from them. I just want to thank you for making such helpful programs as I am also one of USINDO Grasp Batch 6 participants. Again, thank you!

**TESTIMONIAL** **FOR MORE** ➔

## Twitter and LinkedIn

USAID HEPI ASU Arizona State University USINDO

**USINDO GRASP**  
**CRITICAL THINKING AND DIGITAL LITERACY**  
FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**BATCH 8**

Ready to supercharge your career? Elevate your capabilities with this course and pave the way for a U.S. Graduate Degree that opens doors to endless opportunities.

**FREE COURSE**  
EXPERIENCE U.S. GRADUATE CLASSROOM

**REGISTER NOW**

Link in Bio!

**USINDO**

**2024 SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM**  
June 3 - August 9, 2024


Immerse yourself in Indonesia this summer with a **cultural and language fellowship** in Yogyakarta and Jakarta!

**Featuring:** Cultural immersion with host families, language classes, cultural workshops, field trips, enriching discussions, and more!

**DEADLINE EXTENDED**  
February 8, 2024


Register Here: [bit.ly/USINDO\\_SS2024](https://bit.ly/USINDO_SS2024)

# YouTube






**Ambassador David Merrill**  
*President, USINDO*

**Indonesia's 2024 Presidential Election Series: January 9, 2024**

 **The U.S. - Indonesia Society (USINDO)**  
1.68K subscribers

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# USINDO Staff

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