



2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

**THE UNITED STATES - INDONESIA
SOCIETY**

April 2024 - April 2025



<https://usindo.org>



usindo@usindo.org



USINDO Special Events

USINDO's 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Business Roundtable

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, USINDO hosted its 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner in Washington, also celebrating 75 years of U.S.-Indonesia relations. The evening featured Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment, His Excellency Luhut Pandjaitan, as our distinguished Speaker and Guest of Honor.

Minister Luhut is a key advocate for Indonesia's economic growth, emphasizing the use of advanced technologies and value-added production. This strategy is expected to continue under Indonesia's incoming administration.

His vision includes strengthening U.S.-Indonesia economic ties, aiming to enhance mutual benefits and reduce Indonesia's reliance on a few major trading partners. Key areas for expanded trade and investment include renewable energy, health technology, defense, critical minerals for electric vehicle production, and other sophisticated technologies.

Coordinating Minister Luhut's exemplary career in advancing U.S.-Indonesia relations and economic cooperation was honored with USINDO's highest award.

Coordinating Minister Luhut is continuing in the Prabowo Administration as Chairman of Indonesia's Council of Economic Advisors.





USINDO's Meeting with President Prabowo, November 11, 2024



President Prabowo Subianto met with top corporate members of the United States-Indonesia Society (USINDO) at an exclusive USINDO discussion meeting in Washington on November 11.

During the meeting, the President engaged in discussions with leaders of major US companies that have long invested in Indonesia, including Freeport, Chevron, BP, ExxonMobil, S&P Global, GE HealthCare, Boeing, and many others, including Citi and Georgetown University. He later said he urged such leading U.S. corporations to keep investing in Indonesia.

USINDO President David Merrill said the 90-minute meeting was a productive, heart-to-heart conversation about how Indonesia and U.S. corporations and universities can cooperate further during the Prabowo administration to advance Indonesia's development. Ideas discussed ranged from energy to housing to healthcare to education.

Afterward, Indonesian President Prabowo highlighted that leaders of companies based in the United States have expressed confidence in the bright prospect of Indonesia's economic growth.

"They (U.S. companies) have placed their trust in Indonesia and its economy. I have also encouraged them to continue to invest and take part in our national development plans," he noted in a statement from his secretariat here on Tuesday.

In his press statement following the meeting, President Prabowo expressed delight at US companies' enthusiasm for continuously contributing to Indonesia's economic development.

"They are highly involved in Indonesia's economy and development. They have long invested in Indonesia, and they continue to trust Indonesia and its economy. I also encouraged them to keep investing and participate in our development plans," he said.

Minister of Investment and Downstreaming Development/Head of the Investment Coordinating Board Rosan Roeslani, who also attended the meeting, added that the discussion went productively.

USINDO's Executive Luncheon Discussion with H.E. Luhut Pandjaitan, and H.E. Budi Djiwandono, January 21, 2025

On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, USINDO hosted an Executive Luncheon Discussion in Washington, D.C., featuring two distinguished Indonesian Guests of Honor: H.E. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Chairman of the Indonesian National Economic Council, and H.E. Budi Djiwandono, Deputy Chair of the Indonesian House of Representatives' Commission on Defense, Foreign Affairs, Communications, and Intelligence. The luncheon brought together our esteemed Indonesian guests, corporate attendees, and select U.S. Government officials.

The discussion centered on how the U.S. and Indonesian governments, along with U.S. businesses operating in Indonesia, can collaborate effectively on shared priorities during the new Prabowo and Trump administrations.

Building on the candid and constructive style of USINDO's meeting with President Prabowo during his November visit to Washington, this luncheon provided a valuable platform for identifying areas of strategic economic cooperation and strengthening overall ties between the new American administration and Indonesian administration over the next four to five years.

USINDO's Executive Luncheon Discussion with H.E. Sri Mulyani, H.E. Budi Sadikin, and H.E. Mari Pangestu, April 22, 2025

On Tuesday, April 22, 2025, USINDO hosted an Executive Luncheon Discussion in Washington, D.C., in honor of H.E. Sri Mulyani, Minister of Finance; H.E. Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Minister of Health; and H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu, Deputy Chair of the Indonesian National Economic Council.

Alongside our distinguished Indonesian guests, this luncheon was attended by corporate attendees, and a select group of high-level invitees for an off-the-record, substantive dialogue.

Our distinguished Indonesian guests were in Washington to participate in trade and tariff negotiations with the U.S. Government. Collectively, they oversee key dimensions of the U.S.-Indonesia economic relationship, including trade and investment policy, advanced technology components, Indonesia's domestic content requirements, regulatory reform, and health policy.

The luncheon allowed for meaningful exchanges and revealed significant opportunities to deepen collaboration between U.S. companies operating in Indonesia and the Indonesian government. The conversation highlighted areas of mutual interest—particularly in economic, trade, investment, and health cooperation—under the Prabowo and Trump administrations.



Special Open Forums

Special Open 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 Discussion on “Indonesia’s Climate Future: Land, Energy, and Governance”

On August 16, 2024, USINDO hosted a special open forum in collaboration with the University of Maryland School of Public Policy’s Center for Global Sustainability. The event, “*Indonesia’s Climate Future: Land, Energy, and Governance*,” brought together nine leading experts and policymakers from Indonesia and the U.S. to discuss Indonesia’s climate strategies, the challenges it faces, and the role public understanding can play in addressing these issues.

The program featured two key panels. The first focused on sustainable land use and effective governance, moderated by Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr. Panelists included Dr. Budy Resosudarmo, Professor at the Australian National University; Dr. Daniel Murdiyarso, Principal Scientist at CIFOR; Dr. Alin Halimatussadiah from the University of Indonesia; and Dr. Matthew Hansen, Professor at the University of Maryland. The group explored how sustainable land use and strong governance can address Indonesia’s environmental challenges. This first panel can be viewed [here](#).

The second panel centered on advancing Indonesia’s energy transition, moderated by Dr. David McCauley, Senior Advisor to the Global Environment Facility. Panelists included Mr. Fabby Tumiwa, Executive Director of the Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR); Mr. Putra Adhiguna, Managing Director of the Energy Shift Institute; and Dr. Agus Sari, CEO of Landscape Indonesia. They examined the policy frameworks and innovations required to drive Indonesia’s shift toward renewable energy. This second panel can be viewed [here](#).

Education, Capacity Building Programs, and Grants

2024 USAID Higher Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI)

HEPI is a five-year collaboration between the United States and Indonesia, aimed at fostering connections between U.S. universities, Indonesian prospective students, and Indonesian academic programs. In August 2022, USINDO received a sub-award from Arizona State University (ASU) to contribute to its programs under HEPI. This collaboration facilitates the enrollment of Indonesians in U.S. graduate schools and enhances the utilization of Indonesia's vital scholarship program (LPDP).

During the two-year implementation, USINDO has achieved several key outcomes:

Interactive Zoom Sessions

USINDO conducted 28 Interactive Zoom Sessions (IZS) with U.S. Higher Education Institutions:

Columbia University	Harvard University
UC Berkeley	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Northwestern University	University of Wisconsin - Madison
University of Pennsylvania	University of Washington
Arizona State University	Purdue University
New York University	Brown University
Yale University	Stanford University
University of Chicago	Cornell University
Indiana University - Bloomington	University of Southern California
Johns Hopkins University	Ohio State University
Carnegie Mellon University	Duke University
Boston University	University of Illinois - Urbana
Washington University in St. Louis	Champaign
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Georgia Institute of Technology
	University of California - San Diego

Prior to that these calls were held with many other U.S. universities. These sessions featured officials from LPDP-eligible U.S. universities and included participation from current LPDP awardees and alumni.

Critical Thinking and Digital Literacy Course (CT/DL)

The Critical Thinking and Digital Literacy Course aims to equip participants with the skills necessary to successfully complete U.S. graduate school applications and thrive in academic environments at U.S. institutions. During the two years of HEPI implementation, USINDO organized seven CT/DL courses for young professionals (264 participants) and two CT/DL courses for university students (67 participants).

Leaders in Education Advancement and Digital Literacy (LEAD)

LEAD offers an immersive program consisting of eight sessions designed to enhance the capacity of three Indonesian university hubs (HEPI hubs): BINUS, ITB, and UNHAS, and 15 university affiliates to implement Project-based Learning in their classrooms, with a focus on STEM. A total of 31 participants engaged in LEAD, developing action plans to further enhance and refine student-centered approaches to STEM teaching.

U.S. Graduate School Fair

In July 2024, USINDO hosted the U.S. Graduate School Fair 2024 as the concluding event of HEPI Phase I in three major cities: Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya. The fair provided a unique opportunity for aspiring Indonesian young professionals and prospective graduate students to explore high-quality U.S. universities eligible for LPDP. The fair has attracted over 2,300 participants not only from Java but also from as far as Maluku and Papua.



Participants had the chance to interact with representatives of programs in the fields of health, public policy, business, education, and others at 17 top U.S. universities: Arizona State University, Boston University, Carnegie Mellon University, Columbia University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Harvard University, John Hopkins University, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, Princeton University, University of Illinois, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Michigan, and Yale University.



In addition to the U.S. universities, other prominent organizations such as LPDP, AMINEF, IIEF, and the U.S. Embassy & Consulate participated in the fair and set up booths. The fair also featured sessions on various topics, including the LPDP scholarship, the Fulbright scholarship, U.S. student visas, and writing a strong personal statement. These sessions attracted significant interest from participants.

Important Note:

This project was terminated in the first quarter of 2025 along with the termination of most USAID programs.

USINDO is currently formulating a new project furthering the large US- Indonesia cooperation opportunities in the graduate education and workforce sector that are still there. It would provide tangible benefits to the development of both countries. Once it is developed into a final project, we will seek funding opportunities based on its merits. See page 18.

2024 Summer Studies Program and Upcoming 2025 Summer Studies Program

The 2024 Summer Studies Program took place between June 4 and August 6 in Yogyakarta, with subsequent Discover Jakarta post-program events occurring from August 7 to August 9. We once again had a successful implementation of this program through collaboration with the Indonesian Language and Culture Intensive Course (ILCIC) at Sanata Dharma University and Purna Caraka Muda Indonesia (PCMI) Yogyakarta.

The Summer Studies cohort of 2024 consisted of 8 individuals with ages ranging from 19 to 27, selected from a pool of 22 applicants. They came from a diverse range of universities across the United States and had educational backgrounds in International Relations, Global Affairs, Economics, Geography, and Anthropology.



Meeting with Deputy Chief of Mission, Heather Merritt in the U.S. Embassy

Sanata Dharma University (ILCIC) continued to offer language and culture courses for the program. In addition to their regular classes, students also participated in two-hour private tutorials with Indonesian student tutors from Sanata Dharma University. These tutorial sessions were highly valued by the students, as they provided extra time to learn at their own pace and receive one-on-one practice.

The Experiential Classroom, introduced last year, merges the most effective elements of the Volunteering and Special Lectures components. It has continued to be well-received by the 2024 cohort. This program provides students with deeper insights into various aspects of Indonesian society, including religion, social, politics, the environment, and culture, through engagement with influential figures and local organizations. One student highlighted, *“Engaging with local organizations and leaders gave me practical insights into the social dynamics of Indonesia. It made my learning experience so much richer.”*



Experiential Classroom: Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Waste Management in Coastal Areas

2024 Summer Studies Program reflection



Victoria Djou, University of Virginia

“Coming to Indonesia not only sharpened my academic skills but also contributed to my personal and spiritual growth. Each time I visit a new place, I notice small daily differences compared to life in America, which I hadn't paid attention to before. These differences help me discover what interests me, who I am, and what my values are. Unlike in America, I saw how religion connects communities, shaping the atmosphere and character of Yogyakarta. I also had the opportunity to share a bit of American culture with my friends and homestay family through Hawaiian food and dance. Ultimately, my experience in Yogyakarta this summer was both clarifying and transformative, giving me a great sense of fulfillment and a broader perspective.”



William Park, Columbia University

“Arriving in Indonesia this summer without knowing anyone was a big step for me. I came with an open mind, ready to embrace new experiences. One of my first memorable moments was taking a Gojek ride for the first time. The excitement and thrill I felt made me realize that something ordinary here can be incredibly exciting for an outsider. This is the essence of traveling to a new place: applying your own values and experiences to a different context, gaining new insights, and broadening your worldview. This experience has continuously expanded my perspective on what exists in the world and what is considered "ordinary." It has taught me to understand a wide range of people, with my views evolving every day in small but meaningful ways.”

Photos of the 2024 USINDO Summer Studies Program can be viewed [here](#), and the students' blog is accessible [here](#).

For the 2025 Summer Studies program, 8 American students who come from diverse academic backgrounds have been selected for an intensive ten-week language and cultural program in Yogyakarta from June 3 - August 5, 2025, with subsequent Discover Jakarta post-program events occurring from August 6 to August 8.

2024 YSEALI Professional Fellows Program

USINDO is pleased to continue its successful partnership with the American Councils for International Education (ACIE) in facilitating the YSEALI Professional Fellowship Program (PFP). As a program partner, USINDO is committed to supporting the outreach, selection, and pre-departure administrative processes for the YSEALI PFP.

The 2024 YSEALI PFP concluded its second cycle in October, with 20 applicants selected in each cycle. Upon their return, YSEALI alumni have the opportunity to bring their U.S. fellowship host or mentor to Indonesia as part of their reciprocal exchange project, a significant component of the YSEALI PFP that USINDO is proud to support.

As in previous years, YSEALI PFP is administered under four Institute Themes: Civic Engagement; Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Empowerment; Society and Governance; and Sustainability and the Environment.

In preparation for the 2025 YSEALI PFP, USINDO has already been involved in reviewing over 630 applications. Cycle 1 will run from April to May 2025, and Cycle 2 from September to October 2025. For 2025, a total of 48 fellows will be selected, 24 for each cycle.



YSEALI PFP 2024 Participants

2025 Edward E. Masters Fellows Program

USINDO Over the past decade, USINDO has partnered with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to jointly fund and select candidates for graduate-level education through the Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program, established in honor of USINDO's founder, Ambassador Edward E. Masters. The program supports the placement of Indonesian officials in top U.S. graduate schools, primarily in the fields of international affairs and international law. To date, 22 junior and mid-career diplomats have become Ed Masters Fellows and pursued master's degrees at leading institutions in the United States.

Our 2025 - 2026 Edward E. Masters Fellow

In March 2025, the Ed Masters Review Committee, which includes representatives from USINDO and KEMLU, selected Nadine Utomo as the recipient of the 2025 to 2026 Edward E. Masters Fellowship Award. She was chosen based on her leadership potential, academic excellence, and other qualifications. Ms. Utomo was previously a journalist with over six years of experience before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Fall 2025, she will begin the one-year mid-career Master of Arts program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

2025 Professional Fellows Program

The USINDO Professional Fellows Program is a new initiative launching in Summer 2025, aimed at providing American graduate students and recent MA/MS graduates with meaningful professional experience in Indonesia. Through this program, selected fellows will be placed with Indonesian or Indonesia-based companies to work on collaborative projects in areas aligned with their academic and professional backgrounds.

The fellowship is designed to be mutually beneficial: participating companies gain access to fresh perspectives and specialized skills from promising young professionals, while the fellows benefit from real-world experience, cultural immersion, and the opportunity to build professional networks in Indonesia. The program also aims to foster long-term interest and engagement with Indonesia among emerging American professionals.

Our pilot program is currently under way. We are currently in partnership with three initial host organizations: **APRIL Group**, **CastleAsia**, and **Boeing Indonesia**. Recruitment efforts are also in progress to identify qualified American graduate students or recent MA/MS graduates with relevant academic backgrounds and demonstrated interest in working in Indonesia. We look forward to launching this pilot as a foundation for what we hope will become a flagship USINDO program for years to come.

Higher Education and Workforce Bilateral Cooperation Opportunities

In the education sector, USINDO's scheduled USAID project funding to support more Indonesians studying in the U.S. and returning to jobs in Indonesia was terminated along with the nearly complete closure of USAID.

Current status: In view of the many opportunities for US-Indonesia higher education cooperation that remain, and new education and workforce opportunities that have recently been identified by both the US and Indonesia, USINDO is currently designing a new project furthering the large U.S.- Indonesia cooperation opportunities in the graduate education and workforce sector that are still there, and actually enhanced. It would provide tangible benefits to the development of both countries. Once it is developed into a final project, we will seek funding opportunities based on its merits.

Online Presence

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase visibility and foster deeper engagement, USINDO has been committed to strengthening our social media presence through consistent activity across Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We currently have a total of 17,600 followers across these platforms.

In addition to our social media efforts, we also leverage our website and mailing lists to keep our community informed about our activities, partner organization programs, and news related to the U.S.-Indonesia engagement.

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

Instagram

Sample of Instagram Post



Facebook



See What They Have to Say

Slide to see what past fellows say about our Summer Studies Program.

Register here: bit.ly/USINDO_SS2025 Apply by: **February 14, 2025**



2.

Cultural Immersion

Experience life in Indonesia firsthand by staying with host families, participating in cultural workshops, and exploring local traditions like batik making, gamelan music, and traditional dance.

LinkedIn

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Partnership 101 with U.S. Universities

 **LIVE STREAMING VIA ZOOM**

FREE EVENT



Seth Walker
Director of International Partnerships
Indiana University Bloomington




Isabella Tirtowaluyo
Assistant Dean for Administration and Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion
Michigan State University

Tuesday
3 December 2024
7:30 - 9:00 PM WIB

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USINDO's 2024 Highlights and 2025 Plans

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