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Indonesian Language Grows in Various Countries



Editor's Note

Dear Diplomacy Tabloid readers, as a great nation, Indonesia is proud of its language. Therefore, all the nation's components are trying to promote Bahasa Indonesia globally. This is in line with public diplomacy's direction that intensely promotes Bahasa Indonesia to young people from various countries.

In line with this, the theme the editorial team has raised in this edition concerns the learning development of Bahasa Indonesia abroad. There are at least 52 countries that have opened formal and informal Bahasa Indonesia learning classes. This development shows that the interest of the world community in learning Bahasa Indonesia continues to increase.

Bahasa Indonesia is taught in various institutions. These institutions are generally places of courses, universities, schools, and Indonesian schools abroad. In fact, this development continues to increase after the Association of Foreign Language Group Association was created in Bandung in 1999.

Language is one thing that will never be excluded in the relationship between countries. As one of the countries that play a role in the communication among nations, Indonesia also has its own language that is already known by other nations. Bahasa Indonesia has become Indonesia's identity that was able to endure until today.

Bahasa Indonesia has become the fourth most popular language in Australia. There are about 500 schools teaching Bahasa Indonesia, even making it one of the must-learn languages at the elementary level. Therefore, we should not be surprised to find an elementary school student in Australia who can speak Bahasa Indonesia fluently. In addition, there are several universities which opened Indonesian language or literature major.

In addition to Australia, Bahasa Indonesia has also become an important language in Vietnam, especially in Vietnam's capital of Ho Chi Minh City. The Ho Chi

Minh City Government officially announced Bahasa Indonesia as the second language in Ho Chi Minh City in December of 2007. Bahasa Indonesia is analogous with English, French, and Japanese as the second preferred language in Ho Chi Minh City.

The next topic discussed was the session of The High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Ocean Conference) which took place on June 5-9, 2017. The Indonesian delegation was led by the Coordinating Minister for the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Panjaitan and the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Susi Pudjiastuti, and involved various stakeholders. In addition to providing a national statement in the plenary meeting, the RI delegation was involved in a number of other activities such as the partnership dialogue, side events, and bilateral meetings with the UN Secretary-General, President of the 71st UN General Assembly and with a number of Indonesia's partner countries.

The subsequent topic explored was Foreign Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi's presence at the Oslo Forum. The Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed that peace is something that may be achieved. This statement was conveyed when speaking at the 2017 Oslo Forum with the theme 'Peacemaking in a new era of geopolitics', in Oslo (13/6).

Other themes presented here were PT INKA's success in winning the bid for a train project in Bangladesh for the second time and the success of the four Indonesian initiatives in Technology, Information and Communication (TIC) for being awarded the 2017 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) prize from the United Nations (UN) - International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as well as other topics. Greetings Diplomacy. Enjoy reading.[]

Reader's Letter

On August 15, 2016, the Sydney Morning Herald carried the news "Research Finds Many Australians are Negative and Ill-informed About Indonesia". The core of the news underscores the importance of making significant efforts to overcome the shallow understanding and lack of knowledge of Australians towards Indonesia.

The Australia Indonesia Center (AIC) has a more interesting record. It explained that Indonesian and Australian Government officials often hail the propinquity of the two countries, but in reality, it is very different among the people of the two countries.

The teaching of Bahasa Indonesia at various universities in Australia, as one of the indicators that Indonesia is interesting and important to the people of Australia, is recorded to be declining. In fact, Australia is a country where Bahasa Indonesia is most widely taught as compared to other countries.

Australian experts even predict that the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in Australia may be stopped within the next 10 years if this trend continues to be allowed. However, the Ambassador of Indonesia Nadjib Riphath Kesoema denied this because enthusiasts studying Bahasa Indonesia in Australia are still many. Moreover, Bahasa Indonesia is the fourth most popular language in Australia.

We observed that development in the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in Australia indicates that Australians have the interest and respect for Indonesia. This situation must be maintained so that the G to G and people to people relationship can improve economic, tourism and cultural relations.

Rendy Ahmad Jayadi
Universitas Sumatera Utara

According to a Parliament member from Western Australian, Alannah MacTiernan, Bahasa Indonesia is one of the foreign languages most widely studied by elementary school students, but unfortunately, we do not take care of it pretty well and many people do not take it seriously.

According to Allanah, Australia should be able to provide more training for Bahasa Indonesia teachers, send them to Indonesia, and they can return teaching with more profound knowledge.

Seeing the interest and enthusiasm of the Australian community to learn Bahasa Indonesia, the Government of Indonesia should seize this momentum in a positive manner. For instance, by supporting the growth of new businesses related to language teaching.

And from the data of tourist visits, there's no place most frequented by Australians than Indonesia. Seeing this fact, there is a need for creative efforts from the various groups in this country to combine language teaching with modern culture packed up in a travel program.

Venita Sari,
President University, Bekasi

Table of Contents

HEADLINE

- 4 Bahasa Indonesia Developing in Different Parts of the World
- 6 9 Foreign Universities with Bahasa Indonesia Courses

FOCUS

- 8 Bahasa Indonesia is Thriving in Thailand
- 9 Stories of Foreigners Interested in Learning Bahasa Indonesia
- 10 Sari Suharyo and the Joys and Sorrows of Bahasa Indonesia in Thailand Integrating Education, Tourism and Cultural Exchange
- 11 Infographics of 52 Countries Teaching Bahasa Indonesia
- 12 Teaching of Bahasa Indonesia for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) as a Main Medium in Introducing Indonesia to the Outside World
- 13 Darmasiswa's Soft Diplomacy Preparing Indonesian Envoys in Various Countries
- 14 Indonesia Lovers Abroad

HIGHLIGHTS

- 15 RI, G33 Calls for the Importance of Food Sovereignty and Security in the WTO
- 16 Indonesia Elected as Vice-President of the High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Ocean Conference)
- 16 Foreign Minister Retno in Oslo Forum: Peace is Possible to Achieve
- 18 PT INKA Once Again Wins Tender of Train Carriages in Bangladesh
- 18 RI and Kenya KADINs Agree on MoU in Strengthening Economic Cooperation
- 19 Indonesia's First Cultural Festival Held in Svetlogorsk, Russia
- 20 Indonesia Achieves UN's 2017 WSIS Prize in Geneva

LENS

- 21 ASEAN Must Transform to Answer New Challenges
- 22 ASEAN Flag Hoisted in Sikka, NTT
- 23 Flight Information Region (FIR) Limit Changes: What Should Indonesia Prepare?
- 24 RI-Kenya Business Forum: Transformation of Good Relations in the Field of Politics to Economic Cooperation

9 Focus Stories of Foreigners Interested in Learning Bahasa Indonesia



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Bahasa Indonesia

DEVELOPING IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD

ALONG WITH THE PROGRESS AND DIVERSE CULTURAL RICHNESS OF INDONESIA, BAHASA INDONESIA IS NOW BEGINNING TO DEVELOP AND STUDIED BY OTHER NATIONS. THE INTEREST OF THE OVERSEAS COMMUNITY IN LEARNING BAHASA INDONESIA HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY IN THE LAST TWO DECADES.



Language is one thing that will never be excluded in the relationship between countries. As one of the countries that play a role in the communication among nations, Indonesia also has its own language that is already known by other nations. Bahasa Indonesia has become Indonesia's identity that was able to endure until today.

The trend of foreign nationals to learn Bahasa Indonesia is encouraging news. Currently, the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia abroad has become interesting and welcomed. There are at least 52 foreign countries that have opened Bahasa Indonesia programs (Indonesian Language Studies). Bahasa Indonesia is taught in various

institutions. These institutions are generally places of courses, universities, schools, and Indonesian schools abroad. In fact, this development continuous to increase after the Association of Foreign Language Group Association was created in Bandung in 1999.

Bahasa Indonesia has become the fourth most popular language in Australia. There are about 500 schools teaching Bahasa Indonesia, even making it one of the must-learn languages at the elementary level. Therefore, we should not be surprised to find an elementary school student in Australia who can speak Bahasa Indonesia fluently. In addition, there are several universities which opened Indonesian language or literature major.

In addition to Australia, Bahasa Indonesia has also become a language with an important status in Vietnam, especially in Ho Chi Minh City, the capital of Vietnam. According to an Indonesian diplomat, the Ho Chi Minh City Government officially announced Bahasa Indonesia as the second language in Ho Chi Minh City in December of 2007. In addition, according to the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia for the 2007-2008 period, Irdamis Ahmad, Bahasa Indonesia is parallel to English, French, and Japanese as the second preferred language in Ho Chi Minh City.

Bahasa Indonesia is also one of the subjects taught at universities in Vietnam, such as in Hong Bang University,

HCMC National University, and the University of Social and Humanities. The number of Bahasa Indonesia enthusiasts in these universities tends to increase.

In South Korea, a country that is now the center of attention of teenagers in Indonesia and around the world due to its K-Pop culture and drama series, the interest of its citizens towards Bahasa Indonesia is also proof that this language has been accepted there. Every year, the Embassy in Seoul, South Korea holds a speech contest using Bahasa Indonesia specifically for the people of South Korea. Their enthusiasm in joining the contest is quite high.

Bahasa Indonesia studies are also held in South Korea's neighbor, namely Japan. There are more than 20 universities that teach Bahasa Indonesia as an elective course. In addition, there are also universities which opened Bahasa Indonesia departments such as the University of Foreign Studies of Tokyo, Tenri University, Osaka Foreign Studies University, Sango University Kyoto, and Setsunan University.

Bahasa Indonesia is not only known in countries in Asia and Australia, but it is also well known in Africa. Indonesia's relationship with African countries has long been established since the implementation of the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung in 1955. As we know, the event has encouraged colonized countries at that

time, especially in Africa, in trying to achieve independence. So, it is not surprising if the relationship between Indonesia and these countries go well in all areas including culture and language.

In Egypt for instance, many locals know Bahasa Indonesia and are able to speak because they are used to interact with Indonesian students studying at Al-Azhar. The interest of Egyptians to learn Bahasa Indonesia is also quite high. This can be seen from the number of Bahasa Indonesia course participants organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Cairo. Participants of this course consist of various groups, such as tourism practitioners, economic actors, and mostly students.

In Morocco, the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia has been

initiated at the University of Mohammed V. At the university, Bahasa Indonesia has become one of the four selected courses in addition to other languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Urdu, and Turkish. Lecturers who teach Bahasa Indonesia courses there are lecturers from the State University of Jakarta (UNJ). Teaching Bahasa Indonesia at Mohammed V University Morocco is one of the efforts to improve bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the field of education.

Among the groups that indirectly contributed to the spread of Bahasa Indonesia were students studying abroad. In addition, Indonesian workers and artists also have the same role in that regard. Indonesian musicians who hold concerts abroad by bringing their songs in Bahasa Indonesia are able

to arouse the local people's curiosity in finding out their meaning; therefore they are interested in learning Bahasa Indonesia. For instance, Anggun Cipta Sasmi is one of the Indonesian singers who went international. Although she has become a French citizen, she frequently brings her composed songs in Bahasa Indonesia to every appearance in countries in Europe and America.

The development of Bahasa Indonesia in some countries in the world is a great opportunity for this language to become an international language. Efforts to make Bahasa Indonesia an international language must start from the Indonesian nation itself by loving its language. But in reality, Indonesians today are more accustomed to using less good Bahasa Indonesia, such as jargoned language, aimless

language, and other types of languages that do not support the development of a good and accurate Bahasa Indonesia. In addition, they are also usually more proud to use foreign languages like English than Bahasa Indonesia.

Therefore, as an Indonesian nation, we must maintain the identity of our nation, which is Bahasa Indonesia. One of the steps in preserving Bahasa Indonesia is to give priority to the proper and correct use of Bahasa Indonesia. We should not be ashamed to use Bahasa Indonesia because Bahasa Indonesia currently receives special attention among other nations. This proves that Bahasa Indonesia is still able to show its existence in this era of globalization.[]

(Source: www.academia.edu/H.Annisaprakarsa)



9 Foreign Universities with Bahasa Indonesia Courses

BAHASA INDONESIA HAS GAINED APPRECIATION IN MORE THAN 45 COUNTRIES. A NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE OPENED COURSES ON BAHASA INDONESIA.

It can be viewed as an appreciation because they are conducting courses on Bahasa Indonesia without any recommendation from any party.

They have set up a Bahasa Indonesia study program at their own expense.

According to some foreigners in those countries, there is something different with Indonesia that they want to know more profoundly. They are also interested in the social, natural, and cultural conditions that they find interesting to learn.

That's what drives them to learn Bahasa Indonesia. By mastering Bahasa Indonesia, they can understand the social, economic, and political system.

There is a different world in Indonesia according to them. So when the Malays were aggressively promoting the language, we do not need to worry because many are interested in Bahasa Indonesia. As a counteraction, the high interest of foreigners to learn Bahasa Indonesia is supported by the government's effort to improve Bahasa Indonesia's educational facilities in the country and also provides a source of learning of Bahasa Indonesia for people abroad. These conditions add to the optimism on Bahasa Indonesia that it will go international.

The increasing appeal

of people around the world for Bahasa Indonesia is not intended to internationalize Bahasa Indonesia, but more on making Bahasa Indonesia as the world's language for interaction.

Here are 9 foreign universities with Indonesian courses:

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan



The Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) is renowned as an international study, research, and exchange center for lecturers worldwide. Not only that, the university located in Asahicho, Fuchu, Tokyo is also known as one of the five leading universities in the world in the field of foreign languages.

There are 26 foreign languages being taught in this university, one of which is Bahasa Indonesia. Not surprisingly, from the 26 foreign language studies from various countries, Bahasa Indonesia is one of those being studied in this university.

Bahasa Indonesia is included in the Southeast Asia study program, along with

seven other countries. Just for information, not many students are accepted to study in the university. In a year, TUFS will only receive 18 students who will be taught starting from basic, reading, and writing Bahasa Indonesia properly and correctly.

In addition, there are also other universities in Japan which opened Bahasa Indonesia studies such as the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tenri University, Osaka Foreign Studies University, Sango University of Kyoto, and Setsunan University.

University of Southern Queensland, Australia

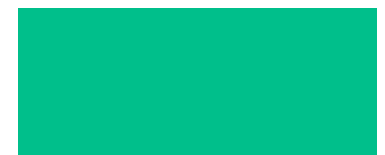


In this university, Bahasa Indonesia is thoroughly studied in the Bachelor of Arts (Bahasa Indonesia) program. For students who happen to take this course, then they will learn about many things about Bahasa Indonesia, ranging from vocabulary, language structure, writing, reading to speaking Bahasa Indonesia.

Learning activities are also not only done by reading books alone, students can also learn Bahasa Indonesia through magazines and other popular

literatures.

Anyone can enter this department even if not fluent in Bahasa Indonesia. Because they will all learn from the basics to understand Bahasa Indonesia properly and correctly. Bahasa Indonesia has become the fourth most popular language in Australia.



Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev, Ukraine



Bahasa Indonesia is a study program that is recently studied in this university, precisely starting from the academic year 2012/2013.

Bahasa Indonesia is a study program opened by the Philology Institute of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev, which at the time of its opening was strongly supported in full by the Indonesian Embassy in Ukraine.

One form of Indonesian government support is to open a Bahasa Indonesia study center where students also have the opportunity to attend Darmasiswa, a scholarship

program offered by the Indonesian government for foreign students.

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea



Apparently, not only Indonesians are interested in Korean culture but South Koreans turn out to also have considerable interest in Bahasa Indonesia and the culture that flourished in our beloved country.

Therefore, one of the best universities in South Korea, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFSS), which was established in 1954, opened a special course on Bahasa Indonesia. Not just one but two departments at once, the Department of Malay-Indonesia in College of Oriental Language and the Department of Malay-Indonesian Interpretation College of Interpretation and Translation.

In South Korea, the country that is now the center of attention of teenagers in Indonesia and around the world due to its K-Pop culture and drama series, the interest of its citizens towards Bahasa Indonesia is also proof that this language has been accepted there.

Every year, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in South Korea holds a speech contest specifically for the people of South Korea using Bahasa Indonesia. Their enthusiasm for this contest is quite high.

Aside from Hankuk

University of Foreign Studies, Bahasa Indonesia courses are also available at Busan University of Foreign Studies and Woosong University.

Hong Bang University, Vietnam



According to an Indonesian diplomat, the Ho Chi Minh City Government officially announced Bahasa Indonesia as the second language in Ho Chi Minh City in December 2007.

In addition, according to the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia for 2007-2008, Irdamis Ahmad, Bahasa Indonesia is parallel to English, French, and Japanese as the second preferred language in Ho Chi Minh City.

Therefore, Bahasa Indonesia also has become one of the subjects taught in universities in Vietnam. The University of Hong Bang, National University of HCMC and Social and Humanities University are universities that make Bahasa Indonesia as one of its subjects.



University of Mohammed V, Morocco



In Morocco, the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia has been initiated at the University of

Mohammed V. At the university, Bahasa Indonesia is one of the four selected courses in addition to other languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Urdu, and Turkish. Lecturers who teach Bahasa Indonesia courses there are lecturers from the State University of Jakarta (UNJ).

The teaching of Bahasa Indonesia at the University of Mohammed V, Morocco is one of the efforts to improve bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the field of education.

The youth, the future generation of the Indonesian nation, whatever his professional background and choice, is participating. Let us further improve our ability and international achievement.

With the increasing number of the youth's achievements, which are recognized internationally, Bahasa Indonesia will indirectly be more widely known and used by foreign communities. And it is not impossible that the ideals of the Youth Pledge, which makes Bahasa Indonesia a language of unity, will not only unite Indonesia but unite the world as well.



Canada



This country opened a course and a place for learning because of the increasing number of workers from Indonesia. This country considers learning Bahasa Indonesia as very important.

Hawaiian Islands, USA



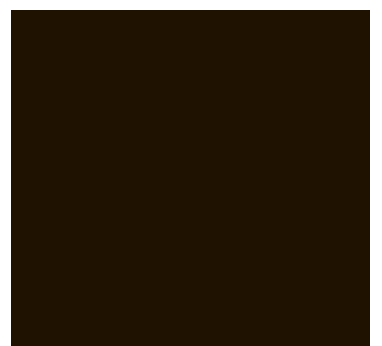
Universities in these islands also teach Bahasa Indonesia in its curriculum. Even instructors routinely go back and forth from Hawaii to Indonesia to gain more knowledge. Hawaiians are very passionate about Bahasa Indonesia.

Suriname



The country located in South America also uses Bahasa Indonesia because 14% of the population is native Javanese. Bahasa Indonesia is well preserved in this country.

These are some of the countries that have Bahasa Indonesia programs, therefore, as native Indonesians we should be proud.



Bahasa Indonesia is Thriving in Thailand

A NUMBER OF THAILAND'S UNIVERSITIES REQUIRE ITS STUDENTS TO TAKE COURSES IN ASEAN COUNTRY LANGUAGES, AND FROM THOSE LANGUAGES, BAHASA INDONESIA IS THE MOST FAVORITE.

A student from Jember University's Faculty of Public Health, Brahma Mahendra, who just returned home from the 2016 "Indonesia Youth Culture Exchange" event in the Land of the White Elephant, said on Friday that the most favorite among ASEAN languages in Thailand is Bahasa Indonesia.

"From the discussions that we attended, the interest in learning Bahasa Indonesia is supported by the fact that there are three countries in the ASEAN organization that use Bahasa Indonesia or Malay language, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam," he explained.

According to him, many Thai students are fluent in Bahasa Indonesia. "While visiting the Thammasat University campus in Thailand, I was surprised to be welcomed with fluent Bahasa Indonesia by students there," Brahma said.

The Indonesia Youth Culture Exchange (IYCE) is a program that invites all young people in Indonesia to participate in introducing Indonesian culture in Thailand, with the theme "Strengthening the Role of Youth to Preserve the Cultural Heritage of ASEAN".

Brahma admitted that he is proud of Bahasa Indonesia which is well appreciated by Thai students, but on the other hand, it becomes a challenge

for Indonesian students to learn the language of other ASEAN member countries in order to compete in the era of the ASEAN Economic Community (MEA).

In welcoming the high passion in learning Bahasa Indonesia in Thailand, the Center for Strategy Development and Language Diplomacy (PPSDK) has allocated a large portion of teachers to be sent to the Land of the White Elephant this year. From the selection of the 5th batch of teachers for Bahasa Indonesia for Foreign Speakers (BIPA), there are 12 people who are ready to depart to Bangkok and other cities in Thailand. The number is still very likely to increase because Prof. Emi Emilia targets at least 30 teachers that can be facilitated to disseminate BIPA in Thailand.

Although learning Bahasa Indonesia is developing into a trend in Thailand, obstacles in the BIPA program remain. Many students in Thailand are still not fluent in reading Latin letters used in Bahasa Indonesia. This is because the Thai language they use everyday since early age is based on Thai script.

In addition, BIPA teachers have difficulty choosing the language of instruction when teaching Bahasa Indonesia in classrooms. Most of the

teachers are not fluent in Thai so it is more comfortable to introduce Bahasa Indonesia with English as medium. On the other hand, the majority of learners do not understand English. Therefore, PPSDK in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok will make it possible for BIPA teachers in Thailand to be equipped with basic Thai language skills in the future.

To increase attraction in learning Bahasa Indonesia, PPSDK will increase the content of Indonesian culture. Teaching Bahasa Indonesia with the introduction of various cultures Indonesia is believed to make the learning process more exciting.

Learners can be invited to learn Bahasa Indonesia through the media of Bahasa Indonesia films, literature on Indonesian culture, traditional games, Indonesian culinary workshops, or angklung playing exercises. Thus, they will increasingly be interested in being fluent in Bahasa Indonesia so that it will

dok.yussak anugrah



One of the BIPA learners in Chiang Rai introduced himself in Bahasa Indonesia. (photo source: Yussak Anugrah)

Thailand brings a number of opportunities and challenges for us in the country. The opportunity is certainly related to the efforts to internationalize Bahasa Indonesia, especially in the ASEAN region. Thailand is an important country in Southeast Asia, both politically, socially and culturally. If more and more Thai citizens are able to speak Bahasa Indonesia, then the ambition of Bahasa Indonesia to 'rise' as an ASEAN Language since President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's era is a step further in being achieved. The Indonesian nation would also feel proud when Bahasa Indonesia is desired by citizens from other countries.

The development of Bahasa Indonesia in Thailand is a penetration of Indonesia's socio-cultural influence. A good understanding of Bahasa Indonesia will support in increasing the Thais understanding of the nation and country of Indonesia. This is useful for strengthening bilateral relations between Indonesia and Thailand in the

later be easier to understand Indonesia and its cultural wealth.

The growth in learning Bahasa Indonesia in

various sectors both in the government-to-government and people-to-people levels. (Summarized from various sources).

Stories of Foreigners Interested in Learning Bahasa Indonesia

At the global level, Bahasa Indonesia is not yet an international language used in official world forums like English, Spanish or French. Nevertheless, the interest of foreigners in studying Bahasa Indonesia has increased significantly in the last two decades.

Based on data obtained from the Center for Strategy Development and Language Diplomacy (PPSDK) at the Language Development and Fostering Agency, which is one of the units in the Ministry of Education and Culture, there are 251 institutions in 22 countries that are active in organizing the Bahasa Indonesia for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) program in 2016. This number excludes foundations, schools, and universities which offer Bahasa Indonesia classes independently or outside the cooperation of the PPSDK.

Foreigners who study Bahasa Indonesia come from various age groups and occupations and are based on different goals. Just as Indonesians learn foreign languages, there are certainly many unique experiences experienced by foreigners as they deepen their knowledge in Bahasa Indonesia. Armed with a sense of curiosity in knowing it, the author conducted written interviews with six foreigners who have been and are learning Bahasa Indonesia.

Three of them were winners of the Bahasa Indonesia Speech Competition for Foreign Speakers organized by the Office of Education and Cultural Attaché of the

BAHASA INDONESIA IS THE NATIONAL AND UNIFYING LANGUAGE OF THE INDONESIAN NATION. SINCE IT WAS DECLARED IN THE YOUTH PLEDGE ON 28 OCTOBER 1928, BAHASA INDONESIA HAS UNIFIED A MULTI-CULTURAL NATION WITH 707 LANGUAGES IN THIS REGION.



Republic of Indonesia in 2016, they were Amy Brueck (United States), Taiki Fujita (Japan) and Christoph Bracks (Germany).

The other three were participants of the Explore Indonesia program for Outstanding Students of 2016, which was organized by the Directorate of Heritage and Cultural Diplomacy of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and they were Andrew Howes (Australia), Ly Rita (Cambodia) and Mohamed El-Fouly (Egypt).

Together with 36 winners of similar contests from other countries, Amy, Taiki and Christoph were invited to Indonesia to attend the 71st Indonesian Independence Day Celebration at Istana Merdeka and a cultural tour in Yogyakarta last August.

Meanwhile, Andrew,

Rita and Fouly along with 27 other participants from 15 countries got the opportunity to study Indonesian culture for two weeks in Jakarta and Yogyakarta. They also experienced staying with Indonesia families as host families and attended teaching and learning activities at senior high schools in Yogyakarta.

Based on written interviews, the author found out a number of interesting and varied things about the process of learning of Bahasa Indonesia by foreigners, as summarized in some points below.

Origin of Getting Acquainted with Bahasa Indonesia

As mentioned earlier, Bahasa Indonesia is taught in several educational institutions abroad and has become

one of the preferred foreign language classes for students. At Lyneham High School in Australia, which is equivalent to a junior high school in Indonesia, Andrew must decide one foreign language he should learn. Andrew finally chose Bahasa Indonesia rather than Japanese or French because he saw that Bahasa Indonesia teachers in his school were smart and kind.

The same thing was also done by Christoph who took Bahasa Indonesia as his choice of foreign language class rather than Arabic when he was studying Islamic Studies at Koeln University, Germany. Other options were Turkish or Persian. []

(Source: Kompasiana Gentur Adiutama)

Teaching of Bahasa Indonesia for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) as a Main Medium in Introducing Indonesia to the Outside World



Yanti Mirdayanti, M.A

Bahasa Indonesia Lecturer

Indonesia / Malay Study Program Department of Southeast Asia
Universität Hamburg Germany

After being in the world of teaching Bahasa Indonesia for foreign students for a long time, the more I realize that it takes a lot of creativity to introduce Indonesia from various aspects.

BIPA teachers outside Indonesia have always been made aware that several things have been entrusted on their shoulders that must be known well, namely: the development of a standard Bahasa Indonesia / the standard in the homeland, the vast dynamics of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia's very colorful cultural richness, and the development of economic, social and political situation in Indonesia that is constantly changing and expanding rapidly.

In addition, there are at least three other major obligations that are on the shoulders of BIPA teachers outside Indonesia, namely: 1) Good knowledge of the mother tongue where Bahasa Indonesia is taught, at least good command of English; 2) Good knowledge of the culture of the

country where Bahasa Indonesia is taught; 3) Knowledge of the character and general characteristics of the people in the country where Bahasa Indonesia is taught.

How can these aspects be combined and manifested to achieve the two objectives of teaching Bahasa Indonesia? The two objectives are: 1) To make the foreign students who are guided from not being able to speak Bahasa Indonesia to speak Bahasa Indonesia properly and correctly; 2) Make the foreign students who are guided from not knowing the culture of Indonesia at all, or knowing just a little, to become familiarly well with Indonesia's culture and its other aspects.

Based on the experience as a lecturer of BIPA so far, it is clear that BIPA teachers outside Indonesia should be able to carry out their duties as creative as possible, and very independent. In addition to following the standard curriculum that has been set in each university, BIPA

teaching and introduction about Indonesia can also be done outside regular lecture hours, which is through extracurricular activities inside and outside the campus.

Regular lectures based on the curriculum that have been formulated in every of Germany's higher education are not uniform. But generally, they are set for example: 1) How many hours of lectures in a week are given for each level of the language class? 2) How many meetings in a week? 3) How much credit load per semester? 4) How many students are in a group? 5) What are the requirements for graduation per semester? 6) What is the focus of the field of study: literature, culture, economics, law, etc.?

To support the academic field of the students, there are various activities that have been coordinated by the Bahasa Indonesia / Malay Studies Program as well as by the Department of Southeast Asia at the Universität Hamburg, for instance: 1) Sending of students to Indonesia for practical work (Internship); 2) Sending of students to Indonesia to take a one-semester Study Abroad program at an Indonesian university (Auslandssemester / Study Abroad); 3) Take a study trip with students, out of town or abroad, on specific themes (Excursion); 4) Screening of Bahasa Indonesia Movies & Discussion (Filmabend & Discussion / Film Evening & Discussion); 5) Celebration of Indonesia / Malay Cultural Day (Tag der Austronesistik / Austronesian Day); 6) ASEAN Day Celebration (ASEAN - Tag / ASEAN Day); 7) ASEAN

50th Anniversary Celebration conducted during one semester in 2017 (50 ASEAN Journals / 50 Years ASEAN); 8) Lecture series with varied themes (Vortragsreihe / Lecture Series); 9) Reading of literary works and discussions with Bahasa Indonesia writers / literatures (Lesung und Diskussion); 10) Student conferences on Indonesia / Southeast Asia; 11) And others.

The above activities are just a few examples of activities that were held. Everything is done during the semester and not during the semester break. Thus, all the students are still in the campus and can follow these activities.

In addition, BIPA teachers outside Indonesia must consistently continue building networks and maintaining relationships with various parties outside the campus.

What also needs to be done mainly by BIPA teachers is networking with the Indonesian diaspora in the city or country where BIPA is taught. It would also be better to be involved directly or indirectly in the activities.

For example, in Hamburg, I always tried to foster good relationship with the Indonesian diaspora's community organizations (mass organizations). Also with the Consulate General of Hamburg and the Embassy in Berlin. The main contact partner is mainly the Education and Culture Attaché.

Cultural activities conducted by parties outside the campus, which are closely related to Indonesia, can also certainly provide positive benefits for the students in the study programs of Indonesia or Southeast Asia. For example, through big activities such as: 1) Speech Contest / German Folklore Competition in Bahasa Indonesia which is held exclusively for foreign students / German students. It is an annual event held at the Indonesian Embassy in Berlin; 2) Dharmasiswa Scholarship for a one year study at an Indonesian university. It is funded by Kemendikbud Jakarta

and disseminated through the Consulate-General and coordinated by the Embassy in Berlin; 3) Long Night Consulate "Lange Nacht der Konsulate". An annual cultural event at the Consulate General in Hamburg (which is also hosted by all Consulates of countries in Hamburg); 4) The largest Cultural Festival of Germany and the second largest in Europe "Hamburg Market", which is organized annually by the Indonesian diaspora under the auspices of IDKA - Hamburg Foundation; 5) Sound of Indonesia Music Program / SOI, which is organized almost every year by the Student Association of Indonesia, PPI - Hamburg.

In addition, there are many other big activities related to Indonesia and can be joined in by German students who are studying Indonesia or Southeast Asia, for example: Indonesia Christmas event, HUT-RI celebration event, and Idul Fitri events which are all

held either in RI embassies or its Representatives.

In Hamburg, there is also the Association of German - Indonesia Community (DIG - Hamburg) which is already old. The DIG has always been active in collaborative activities with the Indonesia / Malay Study Program as well as with other Indonesian diaspora organizations. The DIG's activities are often associated with cultural and literary events. The majority of DIG members are Germans with close inner relationships with Indonesia. The relationship takes place both through work experience, business, marriages, academics, literary activities, and for the pleasure of vacationing in Indonesia. I have long been an active member of this DIG.

Hamburg is also the Headquarters or Main Office of the official organization of the "Association of Indonesian and German Experts and Scholars" (IASI, e.V.). It was first established

by Mr. Habibie and his friends in the early 70s in the city of Bonn. The goal is to accommodate Indonesian scientists and experts in Germany as important contributors in Indonesia's development, especially in high technology. Now, members of the IASI, who come from various fields of sciences including humanities, are scattered throughout Germany. The management of IASI period 2017 - 2019 is under Yudi Ardianto as Chairman I and I as Chairman II. Plus, there are two other core managers: Secretary and Treasurer. And also some Work Divisions from various fields of sciences. IASI activities are diverse, including being partners of Indonesian government programs and universities in Indonesia.

Another achievement related to the field of Southeast Asian studies is the establishment of an "Association of Southeast Asian Study Students in Germany" which was founded in 2016

by the students themselves. Its main activities are holding special annual conferences for students of Southeast Asian studies in Germany and outside Germany. The association aims to strengthen the relationship of students from various universities in Germany with the Department of Southeast Asia. Thus, it can also strengthen the scientific network and possibly work career networks.

Bahasa Indonesia must be the host country of Indonesia. Also, it has now become a "Guest Language" in various countries outside Indonesia.

However, it must be remembered that the most important task is to nurture and promote "a Good and Correct Bahasa Indonesia" and not merely in the hands of BIPA teachers. It is primarily the responsibility of Indonesian citizens using Bahasa Indonesia as a language for daily communication. []

DARMASISWA's SOFT DIPLOMACY

PREPARING INDONESIAN ENVOYS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

The Government of Indonesia, through the cooperation of the Ministry of Education & Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organizes the Darmasiswa Scholarship program every year since 1974. This scholarship program is one form of soft diplomacy approach, which is diplomacy through a cultural approach.

This scholarship is intended for foreign students who come from countries that have diplomatic relations with Indonesia.

In addition to strengthening cultural relations and tolerance between Indonesia and related countries, this

scholarship program aims to introduce Bahasa Indonesia and culture to young people from all over the world. Therefore, Darmasiswa scholarship recipients will be placed in one of the universities in Indonesia that have been appointed by Kemdikbud to learn Bahasa Indonesia and / or Indonesian culture such as dances, music, and other artworks.

The peak of the 2016 Darmasiswa event was closed with an International Gathering. Before returning to their respective countries, as many as 540 foreign students from 78 countries, who

during the last year studied in various campuses in Indonesia, attended the International Gathering at Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) for three days, Monday-Wednesday (8-10 / 5).

The 540 students were Darmasiswa scholarship recipients from the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemendikbud RI) to learn Indonesia's language and culture.

"This is part of soft diplomacy. They are prepared to be ambassadors of Indonesia in various parts of the world," said Soeparto, Chairman of the International Gathering Committee.

During the event, the foreigners received information enhancement about Indonesia's language, culture, and tourism. Not only information but various performances, such as regional singing, national songs, and dancing will also be featured.

The experience of presenting Indonesia's culture will be useful later when they are invited to perform at Embassy activities on Indonesia in their respective countries. The foreign students who received Darmasiswa scholarships will take turns to show off. They will display Indonesia's local wisdom, such as dances, traditional music performances, stand up comedies, and many more. []



Desy C Nguyen (center), Darmasiswa student from Vietnam while performing in Malang Carnival Festival UMM, at Helipad UMM, Tuesday (9/5). More info, please contact: darmasiswa.kemendikbud.go.id.

Indonesia Lovers Abroad



Al Busyra Basnur
Director of Public Diplomacy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

When I attended the 2nd International Conference on Social and Political Sciences at the FISIP of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah on September 6, 2016, as part of the answer to my question, Prof. Greg Fealy from the Australia National University (ANU), who was the speaker at the conference, said that the interest of the Australian community in learning about Indonesia, including Bahasa Indonesia, has begun to decline.

Previously, on August 15, 2016, The Sydney Morning Herald carried the news "Research Finds Many Australians Negative and Ill-informed About Indonesia". The core of the news underscores the importance of making significant efforts to overcome the shallow understanding and lack of knowledge of Australians towards Indonesia.

The Australia Indonesia Center (AIC) has a more interesting record. He explained that Indonesia-Australian Government officials often uphold the two countries' propinquity; but the reality in the communities of the two countries is very different.

Bahasa Indonesia teaching at various universities in

Australia, as one of the indicators that Indonesia is interesting and important to the people of Australia, is indeed declining. In fact, to date, Bahasa Indonesia is the most widely taught language in Australia as compared to other countries.

Australian experts even predict that the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in Australia may be stopped within the next 10 years if this trend continues to be allowed. However, the Ambassador of Indonesia Nadjib Riphath Kesoema denied that because enthusiasts studying Bahasa Indonesia in Australia are still many. Moreover, Bahasa Indonesia is the fourth most popular language in Australia.

Unlike Australia, people's interest in studying Indonesia, especially Bahasa Indonesia, in many other countries in Asia, Europe, as well as America is growing well and improving. In Japan, Bahasa Indonesia is taught in leading educational institutions and studied by professionals. In South Korea, Bahasa Indonesia is taught in the top three universities in Hanguk University of Foreign Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies and Youngsan University. In Italy, Bahasa Indonesia has been

taught for a long time at the Università Degli Studi in Napoli l'Orientale where the author often synergizes to promote Indonesia before (1999-2004).

In Finland, the University of Turkey opened Bahasa Indonesia lessons starting in August 2016 as there was great interest in studying Indonesia from the people. Finland emphasized the importance of Indonesia as a populous country and has a big economy with a rapid developing democracy.

Not less interesting is the Center for Bahasa Indonesia Studies, Center for Regional Studies and International Relations of the Azerbaijan University of Languages in Baku. The study center, which opened in 2010, is a development of the Bahasa Indonesia study program that began in 2007. One of the central objectives of the center is to create a Bahasa Indonesiaist in Azerbaijan. The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Azerbaijan, Dr. Husnan Bey Fananie said that the Center for Bahasa Indonesia Studies is one of the magnets and powerhouses that are vital in improving relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Azerbaijan.

It is true that everyone knows that learning a foreign language is not solely aimed at facilitating communication among nations. Language can even strengthen the unity of society and promote the economies of nations in the world. Today, there are about 7,000 languages spoken by people in various directions.

Bahasa Indonesia is taught in about 219 institutions in 46 countries worldwide. Although it has declined in Australia, the demand for sending teachers of Bahasa Indonesia

for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) in many other countries actually increased. Unfortunately, the Kemendikbud's Language Development and Fostering Agency is unable to meet all these requests due to budget constraints. This year, Kemendikbud was only able to meet about half of the total demand for BIPA abroad.

Investment

It is interesting to scrutinize why interest in learning Bahasa Indonesia in Australia decreased. On the other hand, it is also interesting to note why interest in learning Bahasa Indonesia in other countries increased.

Prof. Tim Lindsey mentioned that the travel warning to Indonesia issued by the Australian Government became the main cause for the declining interest in learning Bahasa Indonesia. The warning did not merely cause doubts and worries, it also spread fear that diminished the hopes for the Australian public to seize the potential and great opportunities available in Indonesia. In fact, as a neighboring country, Indonesia and Australia have very good relations as signified by the strong interest and dependence in advancing the two nations, especially in the social and economic fields.

Travel warning is not entirely the cause of the decreasing interest in learning Bahasa Indonesia in Australia. All this time, travel warning is more associated with security issues, execution of death penalty, infectious diseases, and sometimes political problems. Factors that encourage a society to learn a foreign language is not merely because of passion or to support tourism and social activities of the community.

In today's increasingly globalized world, it is precisely economic and scientific interests that are more prominent and the basis for

foreign language learning. This means that Indonesia needs to improve hard work in order that Indonesia will increasingly be considered important in the eyes of the world, so that Bahasa Indonesia becomes increasingly important as well.

The prospect of teaching Bahasa Indonesia in European countries is actually larger than the United States. In Europe, most students are required to master at least one foreign language at the age of nine. Some countries even apply two

foreign languages after reaching a certain age. It is not the case in the United States. No wonder that the General Social Survey has revealed that only 25% of Americans can speak other languages than English.

In the future, the interest in studying Bahasa Indonesia is expected to keep growing well in line with the improvement of Indonesia's regional and international posture in politics, investment, and trade. About the less exciting fact found in Australia, it is certainly

important that we note it and make it a basis in determining the next step.

However, Bahasa Indonesia's journey in going global in the future certainly cannot be separated from the role of government and non-government and the synergy of both. It includes efforts to empower all stakeholders overseas. For instance, the alumni of the Bahasa Indonesia Government scholarship recipients are currently distributed in

various friendly countries such as the Indonesian Art and Culture Scholarship-BSBI (718 people in 63 countries) and Dharmasiswa (6,635 people in 115 countries). Their roles will certainly be extraordinarily great if it is increased, and if it is disregarded, I do not have any idea. We certainly do not want to lose the investment we have invested in them, which is the love of Indonesia.[]

RI, G33 Calls for the Importance of Food Sovereignty and Security in the WTO



Indonesia, with the coalition of 47 developing member countries of the WTO (G33), called for the importance of food sovereignty and security. This appeal emerged in the event at the headquarters of the WTO in Geneva (31/5) entitled "Delivering Development in MC11: Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (PSH) and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM)".

The meeting, which was opened by WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo, aims to open the views of WTO members on the importance of safeguard

instruments as a safety net to protect the interests of small and poor farmers in developing countries.

"The meeting was also aimed at realizing food security, livelihood security, and rural development," Ambassador Hasan Kleib said in his opening remarks, conveying Indonesia's hope that the meeting could contribute to the process of negotiating the two issues at the WTO.

In his statement to the Foreign Ministry's Portal, Hasan Kleib said the WTO member countries are negotiating the agreed form and format of the SSM and PSH.

"Especially in the context of organizing the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017," he added.

The SSM is an instrument of protection to small and poor farmers in the event of excess imports. The PSH is an instrument of protection to small and poor farmers through purchasing and sales mechanisms by the Government on domestic agricultural products.

For Indonesia, the approval of both instruments in the WTO will provide greater policy space for the Government to implement policies to achieve food security and sovereignty.

The instrument also has the potential to help poverty reduction through empowerment programs of small and poor farmers.

One of the problems facing Indonesia today is the high number of poor and small farmers which needs support from the Government. The 2016 BPS survey says that out

of a total of 27.76 million poor people in Indonesia, 62.24 percent or 17.28 million people are in rural areas. Meanwhile, the remaining 37.76 percent or 10.49 million poor people are in urban areas.

The G33, which is headed by Indonesia, is a group that seeks to recognize the rights of developing countries to be able to provide support to small and poor farmers.

So far, the welfare of small and poor farmers in developing countries has been increasingly marginalized because of the high volatility of global agricultural product prices as a result of open market.

This is further aggravated by the low level of competitiveness of domestic agricultural products to counter imported products from developed countries with higher competitiveness, as a result of subsidies provided by their Governments. (source: PTRI Geneva / Yo2k)

Indonesia Elected as Vice President of the High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Ocean Conference)

Indonesia took part in the session of the High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Ocean Conference) which took place on 5-9 June 2017. The theme of this first Ocean Conference meeting was “Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnering for the Implementation of SDG 14”. In this case, Indonesia’s active role in the Ocean Conference will focus on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and marine conservation. Indonesia also serves as the Vice President of the Ocean Conference meeting.

The Indonesian delegation was led by the Coordinating Minister for the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Panjaitan, and the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Susi Pudjiastuti, and involved various stakeholders. In addition to providing a national statement in the plenary meeting, the Indonesian Delegation (Delri) was involved in a number of other activities such as the partnership dialogue, side events, and bilateral meetings with the UN Secretary General, President of the 71st UN General Assembly meeting and with a number of partner countries of Indonesia.

And also on this occasion, the Coordinating Minister for the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, has been selected as the Vice President of the conference and led a number of activities



Indonesia Elected as Vice PresidentThe High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Ocean Conference), New York, 5-9 June 2017.

during the Ocean Conference.

“The role of the Coordinating Minister for the Ministry of Maritime Affairs as Vice President of the Conference and the presence of the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries shows the seriousness of Indonesia in conserving the ocean, sea and marine resources in a sustainable manner to achieve SDG 2030”. This was conveyed by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia in New York, Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani.

During the conference, Indonesia, as one of the largest maritime countries in the world, held 3 side-events to share experiences on handling IUU and marine plastic waste. The three events were held with the Permanent Mission of Norway and Timor Leste and

Interpol and UNODC.

Indonesia and Norway also presented and discussed global efforts in the handling of marine plastic waste and the importance of cooperation in preserving a sea clean from plastic waste.

Indonesia has delivered 9 voluntary commitments related to the implementation of SDG 14 presented at the Ocean Conference. The commitment was conveyed by the Government of Indonesia related to the handling of IUU fishing, marine waste and coral reef conservation.

The Ocean Conference meeting is the first meeting dedicated to the implementation of SDG 14, which is an effort of countries in the conservation and utilization of oceans, sea and marine resources for

sustainable development. The Ocean Conference specifically addresses efforts to support the implementation of SDG 14; building innovative and concrete partnerships to promote the implementation of SDG 14; and providing means of sharing experiences related to the implementation of SDG 14.

The RI delegation consisted of various ministries and related institutions as well as local governments, the National Commission on Women as well as various civil society organizations. The Ocean Conference was attended by all UN member states, with 4 Heads of State, 1 Vice President, 4 Prime Ministers, 1 Prince, 1 Deputy PM, 42 Ministers, 6 Vice Ministers and 46 International Organizations). []

Foreign Minister Retno in Oslo Forum: Peace is Possible to Achieve



Menlu Retno L.P. Marsudi berbicara di Oslo Forum, Oslo (13/6). (foto: BDSP)

In the midst of global pessimism and uncertainty, Foreign Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi asserted that peace is something that might be achieved. This statement was conveyed when she spoke at the 2017 Oslo Forum with the theme 'Peacemaking in a new era of geo-politics' in Oslo (13/6).

Foreign Minister Retno provided ASEAN as an example, which she said could still contribute to peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

"One of ASEAN's successes is the preservation of the culture of dialogue and culture of equality," she said at the Oslo Forum, a prestigious political-security discussion addressing conflict mediation and

resolution and peace-building efforts.

The culture of this dialogue, she added, is increasingly lost in international relations today, so many conflicts are seen happening.

ASEAN not only develops a culture of dialogue among its members, but also with partners, including major countries through the ASEAN-led mechanism. ASEAN is also considered a success in improving the welfare of Southeast Asia.

"ASEAN has been able to create an ecosystem of welfare. The average ASEAN economic growth (4.7%) is above the world economic growth average (3.1%)," said Foreign Minister Retno.

The success of ASEAN in the future will be largely determined, at least, by three things: the threat of geopolitical competition; handling of transnational organized crimes; and ASEAN unity and centrality.

Foreign Minister Retno is one of the main speakers in the 2017 Oslo Forum. Several foreign ministers also attending were the Bosnian Foreign Minister, Canadian Foreign Minister, Sudanese Foreign Minister, Colombian Foreign Minister, Slovak Foreign Minister, EU Foreign Minister, Iranian Foreign Minister and Croatian Foreign Minister. Also present were the former US Secretary of State, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former New Zealand Minister

of Foreign Affairs and several important think tank figures.

In this forum, Indonesia was given an award for its active role in helping solve various problems and differences. Indonesia is also valued for being the world's largest Muslim country and the world's third largest democracy.

While attending the Oslo Forum, Foreign Minister Retno took the opportunity to have a number of bilateral meetings, among others with the EU Foreign Minister, Sudanese Foreign Minister, Slovak Foreign Minister, former US Secretary of State and the Minister of Information of Myanmar. []

PT INKA Once Again Wins Tender of Train Carriages in Bangladesh

For the second time this year, PT INKA again managed to win the tender procurement of train carriages in Bangladesh. In a tender held on June 11, 2017, PT INKA beat rival competitors, Rites Limited of India and CRRC Changcun of China in the procurement of 200 units of MG (Meter Gauge) train carriages. The signing of the 200-unit contract will be held in July / August 2017, after the Bangladesh Railway issued a Notice of Award (NoA) which is an official announcement from the Government of Bangladesh for the appointment of PT. INKA as tender winner.

Previously on April 24, 2017, PT INKA has managed to win the tender in the procurement of 50 units of type BG (Broad Gauge) train carriages by beating Rites Limited from

India. The signing of contract for the 50 units of train carriages will be conducted after Eid al-Fitr.

This is the fourth time that PT INKA has successfully won the tender for the procurement of train carriages in Bangladesh.

Previously in 2015, PT. INKA succeeded in winning the procurement of 100 units of type MG and 50 units of type BG train carriages. The project has been successfully implemented by PT INKA by sending 150 carriages to

Bangladesh in 2016.

PT INKA's influence in Bangladesh began in 2006 when it won the tender for the procurement of 50 units of BG type train carriages. (Embassy of Dhaka)



RI and Kenya KADINs Agree on MoU in Strengthening Economic Cooperation



Deputy Foreign Minister Fachir witnesses the signing of RI and Kenya's MoU in Nairobi (9/6).

KADIN RI dan *Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry* (KADIN Kenya) berhasil menyepakati Nota

Kesepahaman (MoU) untuk memperkuat kerja sama ekonomi kedua negara. MoU ditandatangani Ketua Komite

Tetap KADIN RI untuk Kawasan Afrika, Mintardjo Halim, atas nama Ketua KADIN Rosan Roeslani dan Ketua KADIN Kenya, James N. Mureu.

Penandatanganan MoU yang dilaksanakan pada kegiatan Forum Bisnis Indonesia-Kenya, Nairobi (9/6) tersebut, disaksikan oleh Wamenlu Dr. A.M. Fachir.

"Penandatanganan MoU kerja sama antara KADIN kedua negara perlu diikuti dengan upaya menerjemahkannya menjadi nilai ekonomi nyata," tegas Wamenlu Fachir usai menyaksikan penandatanganan

MoU itu.

Penandatanganan tersebut mengawali kegiatan forum bisnis yang dihadiri lebih dari 100 pelaku bisnis Indonesia, Kenya dan Uganda dari berbagai sektor, seperti farmasi, agrobisnis, tekstil, penerbangan dan *consumer goods*.

Perdagangan bilateral Indonesia-Kenya pada tahun 2016 tercatat senilai USD 210 juta, dengan surplus di pihak Indonesia. Investasi Indonesia di Kenya yang cukup sukses adalah PT. Indofood dengan produk unggulannya Indomie.

Kenya adalah salah satu negara mitra perdagangan kunci dan menjadi pintu masuk Indonesia di kawasan Afrika Timur yang berpenduduk lebih dari 150 juta jiwa. (sumber: BDSP/Infomed/Yo2k).

Indonesia's First Cultural Festival Held in Svetlogorsk, Russia

Svetlogorsk, which is Russia's main tourist city on the edge of the Baltic Sea and is about 50 km from the capital of Kaliningrad Province, looked livelier when the Indonesian Cultural Festival was held for 2 days (9-10 June). The Balinese gamelan, which was owned by the museum, echoed for the first time after the Indonesian Embassy in Moscow sent a gamelan instructor to train 14 Kaliningrad Regional Music College students and the Russian Folk Musical Instrument Orchestra. For 2 days, the audience was treated to several dances such as Merak, Genjring, Rantak, Sekar Pudyastuti, Wigaringtyas and closed with the Gemu Famire dance that was followed enthusiastically by visitors. Uniquely, half of the dancers were Russian citizens who love Indonesia.

In front of hundreds of guests who attended the opening ceremony, concurrent Indonesian Ambassador to Russia and Belarus, Wahid Supriyadi, said this festival is the realization of his pledge last year to Svetlana Sivkova, Director General of the Museum of World Ocean, to send gamelan trainers and hold an Indonesian Cultural Festival in the city, which is a 2 hour flight from Moscow. About 80% of the art objects in this museum come from Indonesia dominated by a Garuda statue and a statue of a puppet figure from Bali, Asmat, traditional weapons, paintings, puppets etc.

"Through this festival, it is hoped that relations between the two countries, especially in the field of art and culture and inter-community relations,

will become closer," said Ambassador Wahid. After the speech, Ambassador Wahid handed over a 1.2 meter replica of the Pinisi vessel specially imported from South Sulawesi to add to the museum's collection.

Ambassador Wahid also entertained the audience by singing 2 songs composed by A. Riyanto "Selamat Bertemu Lagi" dan "Selamat Jalan" accompanied by traditional Russian orchestra music from Kaliningrad province led by Andrei Stepanenko.

On the sidelines of the event, a promotional film "Wonderful Indonesia", which features the beauty of Indonesian culture and culinary as well as tourism destinations in Bali, West Sumatra, West Java, Yogyakarta and other cities in Indonesia, was screened. Meanwhile, TV displays inside the museum continued to display various documentary photographs of diplomatic relations between Indonesia - Russia and a black and white film of the visit of Soviet PM Nikita Krushchev and President Sukarno to Bali island in 1960, a production of RI's National Archives.

On the second day of the festival, aside from cultural arts performances, also featured were Indonesian culinary demonstrations, interactive dialogue, crash courses, and cultural arts performances.

The Ambassador's wife, Mrs. Murgiyati Supriyadi showed her skills by cooking fried rice and noodles, fried shrimp and bananas. All the food were consumed by visitors as soon as they were cooked, including the crackers. This is the first time they have eaten Indonesian



food. Cooking demonstrations were also continued by the Yakitori restaurant chef and it was hoped that the Indonesian menus could be introduced in the restaurant that caters Asian cuisine.

The interactive dialogue was attended by about 70 people from the 10th grade pupils of the "School of Young Diplomat" of the Vocational School "Y.A. Gagarin" from the city of Kaliningrad, students, and the local community. Ambassador Wahid explained the history, development, and prospects of bilateral relations between Indonesia and Russia. The questions raised by the participants, such as the security situation in Indonesia, religion, Indonesian exports to Russia, etc., indicate the high interest of local people in knowing more about information on Indonesia.

The event was also enlivened by a quiz on Indonesia, and for those who were able to answer questions, various gifts such as tea, coffee, scarf, wood watches and other Indonesian souvenirs were provided.

At the closing of the event, a surprise was delivered by a guest named Ivan Bakrymov,

chairman of the Pamyat Pokolenia (The Memory of Generation) community agency who presented a 70 year old Russian antique accordion gift to Ambassador Wahid.

"On behalf of the people of Svetlogorsk in particular, and Kaliningrad in general, I am presenting this instrument as a form of our admiration to the Ambassador who had entertained us all," said Ivan Bakrymov who was applauded by the visitors.

The Director General of the World Ocean Museum, Svetlana Sivkova, at the end of the event also expressed her joy over the Festival and hoped that this event can be held every year. "Despite being a small town, about 1.5 million tourists visit Svetlogorsk and Kaliningrad every year, and about 200 thousand of them visit our museum" said Svetlana. She and her 10 museum staffers are planning to visit Indonesia on an "information tour" to get to know closer the culture of Indonesia's various tribes as well as exploring cooperation with the maritime museum in Indonesia. (Source: Indonesian Embassy in Moscow)

Indonesia Achieves UN's 2017 WSIS IN GENEVA



Indonesia's four Technology, Information and Communications (ICT) initiatives won the 2017 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize from the United Nations - International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The award was presented at the 2017 WSIS Forum meeting at the ITU Headquarters held in Geneva, Switzerland on 12-16 June 2017. The WSIS Prize is UN's award for ICT initiatives in support of accelerated development and socio-economic progress, particularly on the realization of Sustainable Development Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals / SDGs).

The awarding of the 2017 WSIS Prize was given directly by ITU's Secretary General Houlin Zhao and also witnessed by Indonesia's Permanent Representative to the UN, the WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Hasan Kleib and the Director General of Information Applications of the Ministry of Communications and Informatics Samuel Abrijani Pangerapan. In the

awarding ceremony in front of all the TIK global multi-stakeholder delegates, the 2017 WSIS Prize for the 4 ICT initiatives received by Indonesia was represented by Donny B.U. (ICT Watch), Iman Abdurrahman (Indonesia Radio Community Network), Sanny Gaddafi (8 Villages Indonesia), and Muhaimin Iqbal (iGrow Resource Indonesia).

The Committee set the Healthy Internet initiative of the Indonesia civil society, and ICT Watch Indonesia earned the WSIS Prize for Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society category. In addition, there were three Indonesian initiatives that were runner-ups (champion), namely Backpack Radio Station initiated by the Indonesia Community Radio Network (JRKI) in the e-Environment category and two other initiatives in the e-Agriculture category, which are LISA (Village Information Service) initiated by 8 Villages Indonesia and iGrow My Own Food from iGrow Resource Indonesia.

This year's WSIS award was awarded to a total of 90 winners

(18 first place winners and 72 2017 WSIS Prize runners-ups / champions competing in 18 different categories. Determination of the WSIS Prize winner was conducted through 5 (five) stages: registration, nomination,

global voting, and determination of winners by ITU experts. The fundamental consideration in determining the 2017 WSIS winner is the relevance of the proposed program with WSIS Action Lines as stated in the Geneva Plan of Action document, positive impact on the society, and link with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia in Geneva, Ambassador Hasan Kleib, said that the achievement is a momentum to increase awareness of ICT's potential empowerment for the progress of all sectors of national development that directly influences the interests of the people.

Meanwhile, on the same occasion, the Director General of Aptika Kemenkominfo, Samuel Abrijani Pangerapan, said that the achievement of Indonesia's work on the 2017 WSIS prize strengthens Indonesia's message as an important barometer of ICT achievement and development as a pillar

of world development. In addition, the inclusion of two nominees from Indonesia in the e-Agriculture category also confirms Indonesia's profile as a developing country that is able to compete and inspire other countries in strengthening the agricultural sector as one of the drivers of an economy for the people.

The fourth profile of the 2017 WSIS Prize winners from Indonesia includes the Healthy Internet (internetsehat.id) Program, which is an educational campaign program that has been initiated since 2002 and gained support from various Internet multi-stakeholders in Indonesia. The initiative aims to encourage Internet users in Indonesia to utilize the Internet safely and wisely.

Meanwhile, the Backpack Radio Station initiative (jrki.or.id) is a mini radio station technology that can be carried in backpacks that are water and fire proof, and equipped with long-lasting batteries and solar panels to serve information in areas isolated from information access. LISA (8villages.com) is an educational and communication application for rural community empowerment, including farmers and micro entrepreneurs, by connecting rural communities to various locations in Indonesia. And iGrow (igrow.asia) is an application that allows interaction between farmland owners, farmers, investors and buyers of agricultural produce to support agricultural supply chain ecosystems and related capital investments. (PTRI Geneva)

ASEAN Must Transform to Answer New Challenges



Deputy Foreign Minister AM Fachir in a keynote address to the ASEAN-Indonesia National Secretariat Coordination Meeting in Jakarta (12/6) stated that ASEAN should prove its commitment as a centered and people-oriented association for the people to actually feel its benefits.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fachir also underlined that during the past five decades ASEAN has maintained stability, security, and peace and instilled a culture of dialogue, including Dialogue with Partner countries. As a result, Southeast Asia has become an area with increasing

prosperity.

Nevertheless, the Deputy Foreign Minister also reiterated that there are still a number of regional challenges such as border and maritime issues and domestic challenges related to competitiveness and productivity. A.M Fachir believes that through enhanced coordination and synergy, the ASEAN - Indonesia National Secretariat can focus more on bringing ASEAN benefits to the people.

The Coordination Meeting was chaired by Jose Tavares, Director General of ASEAN Cooperation and concurrent Coordinator of the ASEAN-

Indonesia National Secretariat, and attended by more than 120 participants from various Ministries / Institutions. The meeting's agenda included the results of the 30th ASEAN Summit held in Manila, Philippines on 26-29 April 2017; ASEAN issues related to Indonesia's interests; the 50th ASEAN anniversary and plan as well as the implementation of the 2025 ASEAN Blueprint.

The Coordination Meeting was productive and resulted into recommendations, among others, the need for the Ministry / Agencies of the ASEAN-Indonesia National Secretariat to step up joint

efforts for ASEAN cooperation on the Political and Security Pillar, Economic Pillar and Socio-Cultural Pillar to benefit the Indonesian people.

The ASEAN - Indonesia National Secretariat was formed on the basis of the ASEAN Charter mandate. Based on Presidential Decree No. 23 of 2012 on the Membership Arrangement of the ASEAN-Indonesia National Secretariat, the duties and functions of this entity are to serve as an activity center at the national level and coordinate the implementation of ASEAN decisions at the national level. []

ASEAN Flag Hoisted in Sikka, NTT



Raising the flag of ASEAN and member countries in Maumere, Sikka District, NTT (8/6).

Maumere, NTT – 10 flags of ASEAN member countries and 1 ASEAN flag were hoisted at the Kota Baru Public Ground in Maumere, Sikka Regency, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) on Thursday (8/6). The flag raising ceremony was led by Sikka Regent, Drs. Yoseph Ansar Rera, marking the 50th ASEAN Anniversary in Sikka Regency, NTT.

“Increasing awareness or consciousness about ASEAN is one of the major challenges in realizing the ASEAN community,” said Ansar Regent in his opening remarks. Therefore, this flag raising

activity is believed to encourage people’s curiosity towards ASEAN and its opportunities.

The flag raising ceremony was attended by all elements of the Level II Regional Deliberation Leadership (Muspida TK II), such as the Military District Commander, the Chief of Police, and the District Court, along with the representatives of school students in Sikka Regency. The Director of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, J. S. George Lantu, symbolically handed over the ASEAN flag to Ansar’s Regent as head of

ceremonies.

Another important activity in the commemoration of the 50th ASEAN Anniversary in Sikka Regency was the Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The FGD was attended by Sikka Vice Regent, Drs. Paolus Nong Susar, and 30 representatives of local related agencies. Gender mainstreaming became the main topic of discussion in addition to issues on education, tourism, and non-traditional security (terrorism) that surfaced in the discussion. The handover of books / publications on “ASEAN: Overview” and “ASEAN 2025:

Forging Ahead Together” booklets to the Library of Sikka Regency was part of the series of activities of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN in Sikka.

A radio Talk Show was conducted at Radio Suara Sikka, which presented the Lecturer / Researcher from Universitas Kristen Indonesia, Jakarta, Verdinand Robertua, and ASEAN Committee on Women and Children (ACWC) member, Yuyum F. Paryani, to discuss important issues within the ASEAN framework. (Source: Directorate of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation)

“Increasing People’s Awareness or Consciousness about ASEAN is one of the Major Challenges in Realizing ASEAN Community.”

Sikka Regent, Drs. Yoseph Ansar Rera

Flight Information Region (FIR) Limit Changes: What Should Indonesia Prepare?

“Indonesia harus memenuhi persyaratan teknis sesuai ketentuan ICAO untuk melayani navigasi penerbangan di wilayah udara di atas Laut Natuna yang sekarang ini termasuk dalam *Flight Information Region* (FIR) Singapura” adalah kesimpulan dari Seminar yang diselenggarakan oleh Kementerian Luar Negeri bekerja sama dengan Masyarakat Hukum Udara di Jakarta (13/6).



Acting Director General of Law and International Agreement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Andri Hadi, opened a seminar attended by about 100 people from government, practitioners in aviation and law, and academics.

“According to ICAO, the FIR is a matter of aviation navigation services unrelated to sovereignty, therefore, the Seminar is expected to produce an understanding as well as a concrete step advice, especially on technical requirements, so that we can achieve the mandate authorized by Article

458 of Act No.1 of 2009 on Aviation,” said Ambassador Andri Hadi.

Speakers consisting of the Director of Legal and Economic Agreements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Bangkok Office, Director of Aviation Navigation at the Ministry of Transportation, President Director of Perum LPPNPI / AirNav Indonesia, members of the Air Law Society, and FHUI International Law lecturers provided an overview of ICAO arrangements, GOI technical readiness, and views of civil

society and academics on the FIR boundary limit of Singapore-Indonesia.

FIR in Annex 11 on Air Traffic Services of the 1944 International Civil Aviation Convention, known as the Chicago Convention, is airspace where flight information and alerting service is provided.

The determination of the FIR limit is focused on consideration and technical importance and operation of aviation navigational services to ensure the safety and efficiency of aviation and should not overlap with state borders because FIR is not

related to sovereignty issues. Changes to the Singapore-Indonesia FIR limit require the improvement of Indonesia's technical capabilities on aviation traffic management operations, including aspects of infrastructure, quantity, and quality of human resources.

Currently, civil air navigation service above Riau Islands and Natuna Islands is done by Singapore. The Government of Indonesia has a mandate from Law no. 1 of 2009 to take over the provision of such services. (Directorate of Legal and Territorial Covenants)



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RI-Kenya Business Forum: Transformation of Good Relations in the Field of Politics to Economic Cooperation



Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. A.M. Fachir opens the Indonesia-Kenya Business Forum in Nairobi, Kenya (9/6)

RI and Kenya needs to transform strong political relations into concrete economic cooperation and should be mutually beneficial to both countries. Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. A.M. Fachir conveyed the main purpose of his visit to Kenya at the opening of the Indonesia-Kenya Business Forum in Nairobi, Kenya (9/6).

"Our visit to Kenya is a step towards strengthening Indonesia's economic and trade cooperation with Kenya," he said in front of more than 100 business players from Indonesia, Kenya, and Uganda from various sectors including pharmaceuticals, agribusiness,

textiles, aviation and consumer goods.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fachir said that Kenya is one of the focuses of Indonesia's economic diplomacy in the East Africa region. In Indonesia's view, Kenya with a population of more than 150 million is a key country for the entry of Indonesian products into the East African region.

In order to ensure the realization of Business-to-Business Contact, the Deputy Foreign Minister was accompanied by an Indonesia business delegation from RI's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), Garuda Maintenance Facility,

Perum Peruri, Indonesia Eximbank, PT. Sasa Inti and representatives of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency.

In the Foreign Ministry's Portal, Deputy Foreign Minister Fachir said there was a suggestion from the Chairman of Kenya's KADIN to establish a Preferential Trade Agreement to facilitate trade between the two countries.

Furthermore, the Deputy Foreign Minister explained that the business forum has succeeded in producing a MoU of cooperation between RI and Kenya KADINs. The MoU's objective is to increase the direct interaction between

business groups.

The business forum was carried out as a series of activities of the Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister's 2nd Africa Tour to Nigeria, Senegal, and Kenya. Kenya is one of Indonesia's largest trading partners in the Sub-Saharan African region. In 2016, bilateral trade reached USD 210 million with a surplus for Indonesia.

Kenya's economy is quite strong in the region with an economic growth above 5%. Indonesian companies also have investments in Kenya, namely PT. Indofood with its superior product Indomie. (Source: BDSP / Infomed / Yo2k)