

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 11:12 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: draft report on Indonesia Delegation

FYI

From: Goodman, Allan [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 4:17 PM
To: Fielder, Rebecca A
Subject: FW: draft report on Indonesia Delegation

In case this is of interest. Just back from Jakarta. Delegation had 20 university presidents, provosts, and deans.

From: Goodman, Allan
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 4:02 PM
To: 'David N. Merrill'; 'Geoffroy, Gregory L [PRES]'; 'morrison'; Bigalke; 'Karl Jackson'
Subject: draft report on Indonesia Delegation

Preparing this to share with my Board; welcome your edits, additions, corrections. Thanks

Observations

1. There is a considerable change in Indonesian attitudes toward the United States. The latest Pew Global Polls indicate a 73% approval level; the last time it was nearly this level was only in the wake of the generous help provided after the Tsunami disaster. Higher education officials warmly welcomed our trip and, more importantly, are eager to increase student flows to America and institutional partnerships between U.S. and Indonesian universities. The Director General for Higher Education (DGHE) has been given a special budget to promote this, seven leading schools have been given special budgets by DGHE to explore partnerships, and the Ministry will support a delegation of leading Indonesian educators and Rectors to visit the U.S. sometime in late fall/early winter.
2. The Delegation represented over 30 colleges and universities arrived only 9 days after the terrorist bombing of two hotels in Jakarta, which meant our Indonesian hosts deeply appreciated the show of solidarity we made by coming. During our visit, the White House announced that President Obama would come to Jakarta in November. The U.S. Ambassador arranged for the entire Country Team to brief us on our first day; we saw him and his senior staff three more times during the week for substantive meetings, and he attended the farewell dinner given by the Minister of Education. We were also scheduled to be received by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY), who had to cancel at the last minute due to the onset of flu. Earlier in the week we were hosted by his Spokesman.
3. Nearly every Indonesian senior official with whom we met had been educated in the United States. But many of the officials just below that level had not had this chance. Some characterized this cohort as a lost generation and the senior officials all spoke about providing opportunities for this group now (through a "re-charging" program that the Government will fund) for short term study visits and about making sure that the next generation will now have the chances that the most senior group once did to come to America for especially graduate education.
4. Indonesia, the 4th most populous country in the world, is the sixteenth-leading country of origin for students coming to the U.S.; number 15 is Hong Kong (8200 students). A little more than 7600 Indonesians are currently enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. This is approximately half the number that were enrolled a decade ago. The decline began in the wake of the Asian Economic Crisis of 1997 and accelerated after 2001 when there were substantial visa issues and problems – coupled to a growing perception by Indonesians that America was an unfriendly and not very welcoming country, especially for Muslims. At the same time, major campaigns were launched by the governments of Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, China, Germany and the Netherlands to recruit Indonesian students; today there are over 20,000 Indonesians studying in Australia alone. The appeal of these countries also stems from the relative ease of applying to non-US higher education institutions and the willingness to take students with low levels of English.

5. We did not hear a single visa complaint during our meetings and public forum. The U.S. embassy is on track to issue a record number this year and now estimates that 80 percent of all student visa applications are being granted.
6. The market for study abroad is probably very large. A recent poll by the Kompas newspaper found that 76.3% of Indonesian students would prefer to go abroad for at least one degree. There are over 4.5 million final-year high school students and 4.3 million currently enrolled in Indonesian universities, represent about a 17% enrollment rate about the college-age cohort. The Government wants to raise this to 25% by 2011. This means adding over 400,000 new university students each year and doubling the size of the nation's entire teaching faculty. There are approximately 154,000 faculty, but only 7% have any form of advance degrees and fewer than 5,000 have a PhD. Capacity and quality challenges are huge.
7. We were repeatedly told that Higher Education is a top national priority and that the Government would like a minimum international student enrollment of 5% in order to continue Indonesia's embrace of globalization and better prepare their students for work in a globalized world. A Higher Education Reform effort is just getting underway, with initial emphasis on improving the quality and government support for science and technology. There are over 2800 institutions of higher education, but only 86 public universities and polytechnics. Enrollment in the public schools is about 1 million versus 3.4 million in private higher education. The Government is coming to terms with how best to regulate the private sector; a recently-passed law in Parliament calls for all private institutions to be brought under greater government control and oversight over the next 6 years. All boards of trustees will by then have to report on their activities to a government agency.
8. A very small number of Americans, 132 in 2006-2007, study abroad for credit and most do so on short term, faculty-led study visits. The highest this number has ever been was only 215 (in 1994-1995). Most of the delegation did not immediately see how they could send their students here for semester or year-long programs, but an increasing number of courses are being taught in English at some leading universities. Almost all felt that only Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta was well set up to receive U.S. students and able to offer a significant number of courses for them to take. Other institutions (especially in Bogor and possibly Bandung) offer promising sites for field research in agriculture, environmental studies, and marine science. Bali will remain an important site for those in programs associated with the humanities and cultural studies.
9. Education Ministry officials stressed their desire to move rapidly to build on the momentum of this visit, create new institutional partnerships, and expand educational programs under the official US-Indonesia Bilateral Partnership proposed by President SBY (who went to the US six times during the course of his education and is a graduate of Webster university) and endorsed by Secretary of State Clinton.

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