

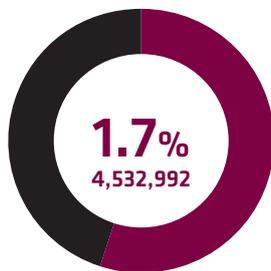


Diaspora engagement mapping INDONESIA

Facts & figures

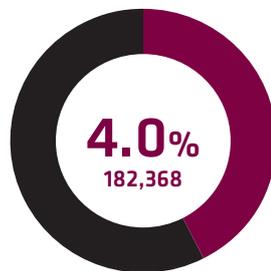
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 55.0%
♀ 45.0%

% of which in the EU



♂ 42.5%
♀ 57.5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.1%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **11,679**



Top countries of destination

Saudi Arabia	1,667,077
Malaysia	1,225,156
United Arab Emirates	314,089
Honk Kong	174,380
Bangladesh	154,877



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:

By post



Indonesia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Law Number 12/2016 on citizenship

2 <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/some-overseas-indonesia-voters-face-problems-with-casting-their-ballots>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2016** ● **Law Number 12/2016³** governs citizenship and allows for the children of Indonesian nationals married to foreign nationals to remain as a dual citizen until the age of 18, at which age they have to choose whether to remain an Indonesian citizen or give up the citizenship.
- 2016** ● **Government Regulation Number 26/2016⁴** enables former Indonesian nationals living abroad to apply for multiple-entry five-year visas.
- 2017** ● **Presidential Regulation Number 76/2017 on ‘Facilities for Indonesian Communities Abroad’⁵** put into law the ‘Diaspora Card’/*Kartu Masyarakat Indonesian di Luar Negeri* (KMILN/Card for Overseas Indonesian Communities). The card is given to overseas Indonesians who voluntarily register themselves with the foreign ministry either in Jakarta or through their embassies. It enables Indonesians abroad to apply for fast-tracked immigration processing during entry and exit from Indonesia as well as provides diaspora members who are still Indonesian citizens with the ability to open Indonesian bank accounts, own property and take part in business ventures.



Trends:

The direct government appeal to Indonesians abroad to either return home or contribute to Indonesia’s national development through financial or other means is in line with the message that the government has been projecting in recent times.⁶ In the past, governments have made similar appeals to overseas Indonesians to return home, but President Jokowi has amplified the rhetoric. The current government has sought to bring more foreign investment into key sectors, such as manufacturing, tourism, fisheries and infrastructure through diaspora bonds. It also seeks to increase remittances by asking the Indonesian diaspora to act as economic go-betweens in trade deals between Indonesia and host countries as well reducing the cost of remittances. The diaspora is lobbying for legislative changes that would allow them to maintain both material and emotional attachments with Indonesia, such as land ownership and business interests. In response, the government has promised to review the dual citizenship law and has proposed other initiatives to strengthen ties between overseas Indonesians and the ‘homeland’.



Achievements:

The diaspora card will allow the Indonesian government to keep more accurate data on its diaspora abroad, which will be useful for business and networking in the future. Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi stated that the data will be used to improve government services for the diaspora, which currently consists of only two full-time staff within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁷ The ministry’s Expert Staff for diaspora affairs, Niniek Kun Nasyatie, has added that the card will also be a useful form of identification and marker of diplomatic protection for Indonesia’s many domestic and foreign workers whose passports are often held by their foreign employers.

3 Unable to access the actual document, further information in this article: ‘Harnessing the potential of the Indonesian Diaspora’ by Charlotte Setijadi https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321145845_Trends_in_Southeast_Asia_HARNESSING_THE_POTENTIAL_OF_THE_INDONESIAN_DIASPORA_CHARLOTTE_SETIJADI.

4 Unable to access the actual document, further information in this article: ‘Harnessing the potential of the Indonesian Diaspora’ by Charlotte Setijadi https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321145845_Trends_in_Southeast_Asia_HARNESSING_THE_POTENTIAL_OF_THE_INDONESIAN_DIASPORA_CHARLOTTE_SETIJADI.

5 Presidential Regulation 76/2017 on facilities for Indonesian communities overseas: <https://iocs.kemlu.go.id/assets/downloads/PER-PRES-76-THN-2017-KMILN.pdf>

6 Indonesian President Joko Widodo’s first speech since being re-elected on 14 July, 2019 <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/president-joko-widodo-delivers-first-speech-after-re-election-sets-out-vision-for>

7 <https://www.embassyofindonesia.org/index.php/2015/08/12/foreign-ministry-to-issue-indonesian-diaspora-card/>.

Obstacles



- **Low level of government support:** There is currently no special government branch to liaise with the millions of diaspora subjects living abroad, and there are presently only two dedicated officers for diaspora matters in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁸
- **Lack of societal support:** The recent increase in nationalist rhetoric surrounding land and business ownership might cause some political pushback on the idea of land/business ownership by non-citizen members of the diaspora. Indonesia has traditionally held a deep distrust of foreigners and citizens living abroad. The idea of non-resident Indonesians receiving privileges through the diaspora card does not sit well with more conservative Indonesian politicians and public.
- **Lack of representation:** the lobby group Indonesian Diaspora Network has been lobbying for the Indonesian diaspora to have its own member of parliament representing a separate overseas electoral district in the national parliament. IDN members have complained that members of parliament have not properly looked after the concerns of Indonesians abroad.
- **Poor implementation:** There is a lack of clarity on details on special privileges for diaspora citizens who are citizens of foreign countries. The regulation states that benefits to diaspora Indonesians are to be administered by the relevant ministries and government institutions. There are many legislative, administrative and jurisdiction hurdles to overcome before the full benefits of the diaspora card are enjoyed.
- **Enabling environment:** Indonesian professionals and associations who are keen to contribute to Indonesia's development lack the necessary information and guidance to do so. Professionals such as medical doctors face obstacles collaborating with Indonesians due to differences in work ethics and formal practices.⁹ There is also a lack of acceptance of foreign qualifications and difficulties in obtaining formal recognition of diplomas and certificates.¹⁰

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Diaspora Connect¹¹

https://www.facebook.com/pg/diasporaconnect.id/about/?ref=page_internal

Founded in 2018, Diaspora Connect is a platform to connect Indonesians abroad with Indonesia. Its current focus is to find high-quality talent to contribute to any professional sector in Indonesia through an app. It also provides support to the returning diaspora, such as relevant job openings, networking through the diaspora community by holding events and offering options such as investments and bonds for the Indonesian diaspora to contribute to their country.

NETWORKS

8 https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/struktur_organisasi/100/special-advisor-to-the-minister-on-socio-cultural-affairs-and-indonesian-diaspora-empowerment.

9 Indonesians in Germany – their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>.

10 Indonesians in Germany – their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>.

11 iOS and website are under construction.



Annual Congress of Indonesian Diaspora <http://congress.diasporaindonesia.org/>

NETWORKS

The congress, a project of the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN), is one of the largest gatherings of the Indonesian Diaspora. It seeks to raise the visibility of the Indonesian diaspora and its potential to contribute to Indonesia. The 2019 congress had the theme of 'Empowering Indonesia's Human Capital'. The 2017 Congress was attended by around 6,000 overseas Indonesians and had former US President Obama as the guest of honour.

NETWORKS

Diaspora Forum¹²

The Indonesian Embassy in Berlin organises an annual Diaspora Forum. The forum also promotes a regular dialogue between the diaspora and the Indonesian Government.

¹² Indonesians in Germany - their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- At regional level

Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM)
<https://www.cimonline.de/en/html/index.html>

CIM supports the transfer of migrants' social remittances such as their knowledge and skills to their country of origin. It aims to encourage migrants' role as mediators, bridge builders and knowledge bearers as well as strengthen the capacity of partners and institutions in the country of origin.

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en>

The Ministry issues the diaspora cards/KMILN and runs the website¹³ for Indonesian diaspora to apply for the card.

Ministry of Research and Technology <http://www.international.ristekdikti.go.id/>

The ministry attracts scientists and educational staff from the diaspora.

- At Sub-Ministerial Level

Municipalities of Jakarta and Bandung¹⁴

Both municipalities try to attract diaspora for know-how transfer in urban planning.

Indonesian Diaspora Network <http://www.diasporaindonesia.org/>

Indonesia's overseas communities have more actively organised themselves through lobby groups such as the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN). IDN has demanded greater recognition of their rights, regardless of whether they are still Indonesian citizens or not.

¹³ <https://iocs.kemlu.go.id/>

¹⁴ Indonesians in Germany - their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association of Indonesian Professionals for Science, Technology and Enterprises (AIPSE) Germany 2004
<https://www.aipse.org/en/home/>

Development activities

Registered in Mainz, but with members across Germany, AIPSE aims to contribute to development in Indonesia by stimulating economic relations and technical cooperation between Indonesia and Germany and by using the potential of Indonesian professionals living in Germany. AIPSE regularly facilitates Indonesian trade delegations and tries to act as a bridge between Indonesian and German partners, including Indonesian provinces and regions and German federal states. AIPSE also aims to establish a database with profiles of Indonesian professionals in Germany.

Batak Diaspora Germany

Development activities

Based in Frankfurt, the organisation initiates and implements projects aimed to improve livelihoods around Lake Toba in Northern Sumatra, where the Batak people come from.

Bildung und Gesundheit fut Indonesien e.V. (BUGI) Germany 2014 <https://www.bugi-ev.org/>

Development activities

BUGI was founded by a group of young professionals and students based in Hannover. The group consists of about 18 active members and it aims to contribute to the improvement of the health and education sectors in Indonesia. BUGI's members include professionals in biomedicine, quality management and veterinary medicine. BUGI organises awareness raising events and workshops and facilitates exchanges for Indonesian medical students.

Franco-Indonesian Association Pasar Malam France 2001
<http://association-franco-indonesienne-pasar-malam.com/>

Founded in 2001, the association brings together Indonesians and all those interested in Indonesian culture. Since 2005, it has published a biannual review *Le Banian*, which reports on intellectual and artistic life in Indonesia and publishes an extract from unpublished Indonesian works in France. Since 2010, *Pasar Malam* puts together the *Collection du Banian*, which publishes works by Indonesian writers, poets, essayists, etc. Through these activities, it seeks to build Indonesia's popularity.

German Indonesian Medical Society (DIGM) Germany 1996

Development activities

Founded by Indonesian and German medical doctors and the former German Ambassador to Jakarta, the organisation aims to stimulate relations and cooperation on healthcare between the two countries. DIGM provides emergency care during disasters, including the tsunami-hit areas of North Sumatra in 2005. It also facilitates exchanges, training and cooperation projects between Indonesian and German medical faculties, such as between the University of Muhammadiyah in Yogyakarta and the University of Munster. DIGM has about 300 members, including both Indonesians and Germans, working in all medical fields. It has a chapter in Jakarta.



German-Indonesian Specialist and Academician Association (IASI) Germany 1972

<https://iasi-germany.de/about-us/>

 **Development activities**

Based in Hamburg, IASI's goals are to stimulate bilateral economic relations between Indonesia and Germany, build bridges between the two societies and to help improve the quality of human resources in Indonesia for the benefit of Indonesia's development. IASI has over 300 members and has carried out numerous activities and projects. It organises seminars, workshops and conferences on a wide range of topics related to Indonesia and German-Indonesian linkages, including technology and resource utilisation, economic cooperation with Indonesia and bureaucracy reform. IASI is also involved in the preparation and organisation of the annual Indonesian Diaspora Forum and works with Indonesian ministries.

House of Indonesia Germany 2015 <http://house-of-indonesia.de/>

 **Development activities**

Established in Bremen by an Indonesian diaspora entrepreneur with the support of the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, the aim of the House of Indonesia is to promote Indonesian products and support the local Indonesian economy, to help to improve the capacity of Indonesian businesses and to strengthen economic relations between Indonesia and Germany.

Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) France 2012 <https://indonesiandiasporanetwork.com/>

 **Development activities**

This is an umbrella organization for all to Indonesia related organization with the aim to advance the multilateral relations between Indonesia and the countries of residence of the Indonesian diaspora. IDN organises social-cultural, sporting and lifestyle activities, as well as dialogue and cooperation with organisations and people who can contribute to Indonesia.

IDN Netherlands 2012 <http://idn-nl.nl/>

 **Development activities**

The organisation is part of the worldwide Indonesian Diaspora Network. It strives to protect the interests of the Indonesian diaspora residing in the Netherlands, especially in the field of immigration, including through special visa arrangements and dual nationality. It also aims to transfer their knowledge, skills and capital to Indonesia through collaborative projects in fields such as medical care, urban development, education, research and development, business and joint ventures.

Indonesia Integrated Europe 2012

 **Development activities**

This group of Indonesian executives and professionals in Europe established with the support of the Indonesian embassy in Brussels. It aims to make available the skills and talents of the diaspora for Indonesia's development and cooperates, among others, with the Ministry for Research and Technology and the Indonesian State Agency for Aerospace. Its members include Indonesians who live and work in Germany.

Persatuan Masyarakat Indonesia Frankfurt (PERMIF)/ Germany

Development activities

This organisation links 17 Indonesian organisations in Frankfurt and the surrounding area and has over 300 members. The founder of PERMIF is involved in several affiliated organisations, such as the German Indonesian Society in the Rhine-Main area, the Indonesian Club Germany and the Indonesian Muslim community in Frankfurt.

Sekar Jagat Indonesia (SJI) France <https://sekarjagat.fr/actualites/sji/>

SJI focuses on Indonesian dance and performances. It was initially led by the Balinese diaspora in Paris, but gradually increased its members to various tribes and ethnicities across Indonesia. SJI seeks to introduce the traditions, art and culture of Indonesia to French society; it is often invited to perform in various cities in France, Netherlands and Belgium and has around 55 members from various backgrounds. Some members are native Indonesians or descendants of native Indonesians and some are Europeans who cherish Indonesian culture.

Written by: **Dr Ronojoy Sen**
Edited by: **EUDiF**
March 2020



Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union

