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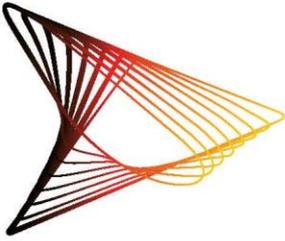
## Germany and Indonesia Pledge to Strengthen Bilateral Relations on Science and Technology with the Inauguration of “Fostering Ideas” Exhibition

**23 October 2015** – Today, “*Fostering Ideas: German-Indonesia Science & Technology Exhibition*”, a part of the German Season celebration in Indonesia, is officially inaugurated by the Minister for Science, Technology, and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prof. Mohamad Nasir and His Excellency Dr. Georg Witschel, the German Ambassador to Indonesia. The exhibition, jointly organized by Goethe-Institut Indonesien, the German Embassy, and EKONID, demonstrates the long lasting cooperation between Germany and Indonesia in a variety of disciplines like for example Biodiversity and Health, Geothermal Energy, Marine Science and Forest Research.

Taking the theme “Fostering Ideas”, the exhibition showcases the milestones of the German science system and technology, which resulted from the successful collaboration and synergy between education, science, government, and corporations. In addition those German companies who are active in Indonesia will present some of their innovative activities and principles of research. Exhibitors in the event are those which are actively engaged with the Indonesian institutions, ranging from universities, research institutes, to global enterprises from Germany.

“Asia is one of the most dynamic areas in the world, including Indonesia. Not only in economical, but also in scientific aspects. In the future, many innovations, developments, and patents will come from this region,” said Dr. Georg Witschel, the German Ambassador to Indonesia. “It is in our German interest to further develop the cooperation and assist you in capacity building. The more efficient science in Indonesia works, the more efficient the cooperation between our countries will be. Let us shape the future together, here I quote the motto of the German Season, go together towards the future. We are very happy with this successful cooperation and want to intensify the relations between Indonesia and Germany in the future.”





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In his speech, Ambassador Witschel emphasized that the aim of this exhibition is to create a good partnership between Indonesia and Germany based on mutual understanding. There are four scientific cooperation highlighted in the exhibition, such as partnership in marine science to observe coral reef and ocean role in CO2 balance; geothermal energy to build a more efficient power plant by using existing resources, like in North Sulawesi; biotechnology to analyze biodiversity in Indonesia as medicine; forestry research to collect and preserve biodiversity that near extinction; and last is about tsunami early warning system given by German a couple of weeks after Aceh tsunami occurred. Ambassador Witschel said there are still innovations to be made, and Germany is committed to help building national innovation system in Indonesia.

The hope is warmly welcomed by Indonesia, as conveyed by the Minister for Science, Technology, and Higher Education of Indonesia, Prof. Mohamad Nasir, in his speech. "The main idea to organize this exhibition is to inspire young generations, in Indonesia and in Germany. We want to emphasize that the development of higher education and improvement of science and technology is the backbone of a country, in order to increase competitiveness and boost economic growth," said Minister Nasir. "Therefore I wish there will be more young people from Indonesia and Germany who involve in the science and technology development in the future." Minister Nasir said the exhibition "Fostering Ideas: German-Indonesia Science & Technology Exhibition" is the true example of Triple Helix Concept, since it involves the cooperation between academicians, business, government, and community, and also stressing out the importance of equal partnership in scientific research.

Once held in Jakarta, this exhibition will be opened on October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 in Bandung. The Opening takes place in Kampus ITB at 15.00 p.m.

The German Season is an initiative of Federal Foreign Office of Germany and is organized by the Goethe-Institut Indonesien, the German Embassy Jakarta and EKONID. For further information, please visit [www.jermanfest.com](http://www.jermanfest.com).

### For press enquiries, please contact:

Katrin Figge  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Email: [katrin.figge@jakarta.goethe.org](mailto:katrin.figge@jakarta.goethe.org)  
Tel. 021 2355 0208/ Ext. 145

