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Indonesia-Australia Dialogue

3-4 March 2013



Jointly organised by
Australian Institute of International Affairs and the
Centre for Strategic and International Studies

Supported by
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia and the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia



Outcomes Report

The second Indonesia-Australia Dialogue was held in Sydney from 3-4 March 2013.

The Indonesia-Australia Dialogue initiative was jointly announced by leaders during the March 2010 visit to Australia by Indonesian President Yudhoyono as a bilateral second track dialogue to enhance people-to-people links between the two countries. This, the second Indonesia-Australia Dialogue, was co-convened by Mr John McCarthy, AIIA National President and former Ambassador to Indonesia, and Dr Rizal Sukma, Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. The AIIA was again selected by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to act as secretariat following its performance at the inaugural Dialogue.

Highlights of the Dialogue included:

- Participation by impressive Indonesian and Australian delegations including politicians, senior academics and media experts as well as leaders in business, science and civil society.
- One and a half days of Dialogue held in an atmosphere of open exchange with sharing of expertise and insights at a high level among leading Indonesian and Australian figures.
- Keynote speech delivered by Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Bob Carr.
- Dialogue attended by former Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Hassan Wirajuda and Indonesian Ambassador to Australia HE Nadjib Riphat Kesoema.
- Opening statements delivered by Dialogue Co-Chairs John McCarthy and Rizal Sukma.
- Welcome dinner for delegates at the Hotel Intercontinental Sydney, including an address by Mr George Megalogenis, author of *The Australian Moment*.
- Luncheon address by Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Julie Bishop MP.
- Substantial coverage by Australian, Indonesian and international media.





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Objectives

The objective of the Indonesia-Australia Dialogue was to facilitate people-to-people links through discussion on a broad range of topics. Discussions covered domestic, regional and global issues and explored opportunities for closer engagement in business, culture, education, science and technology.

Drawing on the experience of other leadership dialogues, the Indonesia-Australia Dialogue sought to build relationships between leaders in a range of fields and develop high-level commitment to advancing areas of the relationship at all levels of society. The Dialogue was conducted in roundtable format under Chatham House rule to enable a frank exchange of views.

Specific objectives of the Dialogue included:

- To create a platform for frank discussion on Indonesia and Australia's bilateral relationship.
- To establish a forum for discussion of Indonesian and Australian cooperation in regional and global affairs.
- To enhance people-to-people links through the free exchange of ideas on a range of topics facing Indonesia and Australia.
- To provide an informal dialogue between the two nations that incorporated government officials and leading individuals from both countries.
- To involve a range of participants, including industry, media, academia and community organisations and youth representatives.
- To discuss potential areas for collaboration between Indonesia and Australia in business, culture, education, science and technology.
- To produce a final report, and provide this to participants, government and general public.





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Format

The Dialogue began with separate delegation briefings by Ambassador to Australia HE Nadjib Riphath Kesoema and Assistant Secretary, Indonesia and Timor Leste, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Allaster Cox.

The Dialogue then opened with a plenary discussion led by the Dialogue co-chairs.

Participants were then organised in four working groups to begin preliminary discussion on key issues in their respective fields to seek ways for closer engagement between Indonesia and Australia. Each working group was co-chaired by an Indonesian and Australia participant as follows:

Business	Mr Kemal Stamboel and Mr Chris Barnes.
Science	Dr Fiona Wood and Professor Djisman Simanjuntuk.
Media	Mr Meidyatama Suryadiningrat and Lenore Taylor.
Education and Culture	Paul Ramadge and Ima Abdulrahim.

The second day of the Dialogue included two sessions of open plenary discussion, each co-chaired by an Indonesian and Australian delegate responsible for facilitating discussion among all Dialogue participants. To stimulate debate, each session began with a five minute “trigger speech”. The topics covered were:

- **Session 1: The State of the Nations**
 - Chairs: Mr Meidyatama Suryadiningrat and Mr Mark Scott AO.
 - Trigger Speakers: Dr Bahtiar Effendy and Dr John Edwards.
- **Session 2: Regional and Strategic Issues**
 - Chairs: Professor Andrew MacIntyre and Eva Sundari.
 - Trigger Speakers: Dr Hassan Wirajuda and Mr Greg Sheridan.

The third session focused on reports of conclusions of the working group and generating recommendations from the Dialogue. This encouraged discussion among all Dialogue participants on how both countries can work better in various areas for potential collaboration.

- **Session 3: Overcoming Barriers to Closer Engagement**
 - Chair: Professor Tim Lindsey.

Dialogue participants also had the chance to network and make contacts with counterparts at an informal welcome reception with the Indonesian Consulate Sydney and at an official dinner for delegates and guests at the Hotel Intercontinental which included an address by Australian journalist and author Mr George Megalogenis. The Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Julie Bishop gave a luncheon address.



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Keynote Address by Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dialogue participants were fortunate to receive a keynote speech by Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Bob Carr.

The address provided an opportunity for the Foreign Minister to welcome the Indonesia delegation to Australia and speak of the current state of Indonesia's relationship with Australia and its possible future. Senator Carr spoke positively about the common ground between Australia and Indonesia in bilateral, regional and international relations given the importance of South East Asia in the future of global affairs:

- “I think that there are two powerful motive forces at work in this relationship today. One is the economic transformation of Indonesia, and the second is the deep realisation by Australia that their future lies in Asia in this century. These are the dynamics; both dynamics that exclusively can be challenged on how strongly they can sustain themselves and is a matter that I am sure is going to be canvassed here.”
- “I think it’s an opportunity for us, out of the habits of consultation, to see Australian foreign policy more deftly aligned, when it’s in our interests, with that of ASEAN, and more specifically, Indonesia.”
- “The bilateral relationship between Australia and Indonesia is now, I believe, at a near historic high. This is a good thing because getting the relationship right is critical for Australia, Indonesia, and the region that we live in.”
- “Today’s Indonesia-Australia Dialogue is a key forum for helping improve knowledge of both countries beyond government to bringing a sense of purpose and cohesion to the relationship”.





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Australian Participants

John McCarthy AO, National President, Australian Institute of International Affairs (Co-Convenor).

Politics

Ed Husic MP, Federal Member for Chifley.

Ken Wyatt AM MP, Federal Member for Hasluck.

Business and Science

Chris Barnes, Managing Director, Braehead Advisory

Rodney Bloom, Executive Director Development, CSIRO.

Stephen Creese, EGM Corporate Affairs, Newcrest Mining Limited.

Dr John Edwards, Reserve Bank of Australia.

Dr Leonie Lethbridge, Chief Operating Officer, ANZ Indonesia.

Bruce Munro, Managing Director, Thiess Mining Ltd.

Professor Fiona Wood, Director, Burn Injury Research Unit, University of Western Australia.

Academia

Professor Tim Lindsey, Malcolm Smith Professor of Asian Law, University of Melbourne.

Professor Andrew MacIntyre, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Dave McRae, Research Fellow, Lowy Institute.

Paul Ramadge, Professorial Fellow, Monash University.

Assoc. Professor David Reeve, Deputy Director ACISIS, University of New South Wales.

Media

George Megalogenis, Former Senior Feature Writer, *The Australian*.

Mark Scott AO, Managing Director, ABC.

Greg Sheridan, Foreign Editor, *The Australian*.

Lenore Taylor, currently National Affairs Correspondent, *Sydney Morning Herald* and incoming Political Editor, *The Guardian Australian*.

Community, Youth and Culture

Waleed Aly, Lecturer, Monash University.

Larissa Brown, Founder, Centre for Sustainability Leadership.

Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director, the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Samah Hadid, Human Rights Activist.

Andrew Ross, Former Director, Brisbane Powerhouse.

Youth representatives from Australian National University, University of Sydney and Deakin University.



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Indonesian Participants

Indonesian participants were drawn from a similar range of backgrounds from media, business, science, politics, academia and community:

- Dr Rizal Sukma, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, (Co-Convenor)
- Dr Hassan Wirajuda, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Presidential Advisory Council
- Ms Rahimah Abdulrahim, Executive Director, Habibie Center
- Ms Lina A. Alexandra, Researcher, Department of International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies
- Dr Anies Baswedan, Rektor (President) Universitas Paramadina
- Dr Bahtiar Effendy, Dean Faculty of Social and Political Science, Fisip Universitas Islam Negeri Jakarta
- Dr Sandra Hamid, Indonesia Country Representative, The Asia Foundation
- Ms Zulfiani Lubis, Deputy Chief Editor, ANTV
- Dr Abdul Mu'ti, Secretary of the Central Board of the University of Muhammadiyah Malang
- Mr John Riady, Director, Lippo Group
- Professor Djisman Simanjuntak, Executive Director, Prasetya Mulya Business School
- Mr Kemal Stamboel, Member, People's Representative Council (DPR)
- Ms Eva Sundari, Member, People's Representative Council (DPR)
- Mr Meidyatama Suryadiningrat, Editor In Chief, The Jakarta Post
- Mr Abdillah Toha, Counsel, Kantor Wakil Presiden (Vice-President's Office)
- Dr Zulkieflimansyah, Vice Chairman, Commission XI, DPR-RI





Outcomes and Feedback

Feedback from participants indicated that the Forum was a strong success, with participants rating the overall quality of the Dialogue as 4.2 out of 5. Organisation of the event was rated at 4.7 out of 5.

Participants assessed the event very positively. The quality of participants on both sides was considered high, and a number of positive impacts were identified:

- “It helped me refresh my understanding of recent developments.”
- “A clearer understanding of what the status of relations are.”
- “Substantially increased personal and professional knowledge.”
- “It improved my understanding in bilateral issues that I was not familiar with such as business and media.”
- “It has greatly, impacted on my understanding of the role of civil society and government in creating international dialogue.”
- “Wider understanding of various issues and how government agencies and civil society interact with the private sector.”
- “Significantly impacted, strong people-to-people contact.”
- “It improved my understanding tremendously on the political will of Australia on Indonesia.”

Participants planned to follow up a number of ideas from the Dialogue including partnerships with Australian institutions of higher learning, using knowledge gained in the context of current work and networks and contributing to Indonesian teaching in Australia through language exchange programs. A number of participants indicated that they have begun following up contacts made at the Dialogue.

Participants noted the importance of such dialogue between Australia and Indonesia and expressed interest in participation in future years. A number of groups were identified that could benefit from involvement in the Dialogue, including Islamic scholars, health and research institutes, governance and aid experts, civil society, youth representatives and leaders and scholars from Indonesia’s outer islands.

While the Dialogue was conducted under Chatham House Rule to enable candid discussion, a summary of proceedings and final report will be prepared and distributed to policy-makers and the wider public.





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Media Coverage

Media coverage was substantial in both Indonesian and Australian print and online media. Various forms of new media were also used to promote the Dialogue. Selected coverage includes:

Australian Media:

- *Sydney Morning Herald*, “Indonesia's democracy at a crossroads” (5/03/2013)
- *The Australian*, “Carr urges Indonesian study” (5/03/2013)
- *ABC Radio Australia*, “A need to improve Australia-Indonesia arrangement” (5/03/2013)
- *Connect Asia: ABC Radio Australia*, “Ignorance the main barrier to better Aust, Indonesia relations” (4/03/2013)
- *WA Today*, “Indonesia’s democracy at a crossroads” (6/03/2013)

Indonesian Media:

- *Harian Berita Sore* (4/03/2013)
- *Harian Analisa* (4/03/2013)
- *Antara News* (4/03/2013)
- *Yahoo! Indonesia News* (4/03/2013)

Blogs and Lists

The following blogs and lists were used to contact more than 25,000 subscribers:

- Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs website
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website
- Australian Institute of International Affairs members and media contacts
- Australia Indonesia Youth Association
- Future Directions Indonesia

Twitter

The Dialogue was tweeted through several Twitter accounts including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Greg Moriarty, IndonesiaAust, Habibie Center, Latika Bourke, Natalie Sambhi, and numerous Dialogue participants during the Dialogue. The AIIA contributed regular Twitter feed during the event.

Online

A number of organisations publicised the Dialogue and its results, including:

- *Indonesia Australia Report* (28/02/2013)
- AIIA NSW, “Australia-Indonesia Dialogue: Exceeded Expectations” (5/03/2013)
- Future Directions
- Australia Indonesia Business Council

The Dialogue was posted to a number of pages, including the Australia Indonesia Youth Association and AIIA ACCESS Network with hundreds of members.



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- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia.
- Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Canberra.
- Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia, Sydney.
- Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta.

The AIIA thanks all members of the organising team:

- Ms Rosalie Pitt, Intern, AIIA National Office
- Mr Jack Buckley, Intern, AIIA National Office
- Ms Nava Nuraniyah, Intern, AIIA National Office
- Ms Huong Le Thu, Intern, AIIA National Office

