Indonesians in Germany - their engagement in the development of Indonesia
The study was carried out by the Migration for Development Programme on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Around the world, societies are changing and individuals are on the move. Around 250 million people currently live outside their country of origin. This evolving situation presents opportunities for all concerned. Diversity and exchange across national borders provide impetus for economic, political and social progress – both in host countries and in countries of origin.

Migrants themselves play an important role in building bridges between countries. Through their expertise, ideas, experience and contacts, they stimulate sustainable change. In a variety of ways, they help their countries of origin to remain competitive, while simultaneously shaping society in their host countries. This interaction offers great potential for development. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we support the activities of migrants from emerging and developing countries and advise our partner countries on how to use migration to advance sustainable development.

The Migration for Development Programme focuses on four areas of activity:

- Knowledge transfer through returning experts
- Cooperation with diaspora organisations
- Migrants as entrepreneurs
- Migration policy advice

Author: Ralph Welcker
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<tr>
<td>AIPSE</td>
<td>Association of Indonesian Professionals for Science, Technology and Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td>Bundesagentur für Arbeit (German Federal Employment Agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAMF</td>
<td>Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (German Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMZ</td>
<td>Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for economic cooperation and development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNP2TKI</td>
<td>Badan Nasional Penempatan dan Perlindungan Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (National Board for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUGI</td>
<td>Bildung und Gesundheit für Indonesien e.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CID</td>
<td>Congress of Indonesian Diaspora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIM</td>
<td>Centre for International Migration and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAAD</td>
<td>Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDI</td>
<td>Desk Diaspora Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIG</td>
<td>Deutsch Indonesische Gesellschaft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIV</td>
<td>Deutsch Indonesische Vereinigung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFMD</td>
<td>Global Forum on Migration and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-4</td>
<td>Ikatan Ilmuwan Indonesia Internasional - International Association of Indonesian Scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IASI</td>
<td>Ikatan Ahli dan Sarjana Indonesia Jerman - German-Indonesian Specialist and Academician Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDN</td>
<td>Indonesia Diaspora Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPTN</td>
<td>Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEMLU</td>
<td>Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KMKI</td>
<td>Keluarga Mahasiwa Katolik Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAJ</td>
<td>Perhimpunan Alumni Jerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERKI</td>
<td>Persekutuan Kristen Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERMIF</td>
<td>Persatuan Masyarakat Indonesia Frankfurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia - Indonesian Student Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES</td>
<td>Senior Experten Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKI</td>
<td>Tenaga Kerja Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie - Dutch East India Company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Introduction

The potentially positive linkages between migration and development have been acknowledged for many years, but receive much more attention in global discussions since the early 2000s. The first United Nations High Level Dialogue (UN-HLD) on International Migration and Development held in 2006 brought together more than 140 governments to address the implications migration has on economic and social development, the interaction between migration and development and to discuss how governance of migration could contribute to development and vice versa. Since 2007 the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) takes place on a yearly basis. The GFMD consists of a meeting of government representatives of the member states and so-called ‘Civil Society Days’ that precede the government meeting. Policymakers, academics, representatives of NGOs, migrant organizations and the private sector discuss a range of topics, including remittances and development, labour mobility, safe migration, the role of diaspora in development and the role of migration in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). The civil society produces a report with outcomes and recommendations which is submitted to the Government meeting for further discussions. The second UN-HLD was held in 2013 and the ninth GFMD meeting will take place in 2016 in Bangladesh. Several countries have in the meantime developed a migration and development policy.

Many migrants and their associations have engaged in development efforts in their countries of origin already for a long time, but in the past ten to fifteen years the value of their engagement has increasingly gained recognition of governments at both ends of the migration cycle. Countries of origin wish to attract diaspora resources, while countries of destination hope to increase the effectiveness of their development assistance and immigration and integration policies. Both policymakers and practitioners in both origin and destination countries share a common goal: To strengthen the role of diaspora in development.

Diasporas have the potential to make many contributions and to act as bridge builders and accelerators for change and development. Most commonly recognized are the remittances they sent back home—expected to reach $440 billion to the developing world in 2015 (Worldbank, Migration and Development Brief, April 2015). The remittances are sent to private households in countries of origin, but the diaspora increasingly uses its savings for investment, business development and charity. Migrants also tap on other valuable resources they have, such as their knowledge, skills, experience, ideas and networks and share these with partners in countries of origin thereby contributing to the so called brain gain (as opposed to brain drain, which is the phenomenon of highly skilled people emigrating). Many well-educated professionals with a migration background go back and forth already (brain circulation) with or without support of development agencies. Key questions now concern not so much if the diaspora can benefit their country of origin, but how they can do this in the most effective way and what programmes and policies can strengthen this engagement. How can countries of origin improve their framework conditions to make it more attractive for the diaspora to come back? And how can the capacity of diaspora organizations be strengthened to make a more lasting impact of their interventions on local development? The Global Programme Migration for Development (PME) implemented by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), a joint operation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Federal Employment Agency (BA) tries to answer these questions. CIM supports the transfer of migrants’ social remittances such as their knowledge and skills to their country of origin. In this way both the migrants’ role as mediators, bridge builders and knowledge bearers as well as the capacity of partners and institutions in the country of origin are strengthened. PME works closely with diaspora groups and organizations in Germany and partners in the countries of origin and offers specific services to those individuals and groups who want to return, permanently or temporarily, to share the knowledge and experience they acquired in Germany, and to help countries of origin in shaping migration and development policies and programmes.

To gain more insight in the background and composition of migrant communities in Germany and to explore the interest in and potential for development cooperation, PME conducts surveys about diaspora communities of its partner countries. The Indonesian diaspora is a potentially interesting community for such a study. Indonesia is an important partner country for German development cooperation. Indonesian-German cooperation focuses on three priority areas: Climate protection and sustainable development, private-sector promotion and good governance and decentralization. Furthermore the two countries agreed to work together in the field of post-Tsunami reconstruction in the Province of Aceh in Northern Sumatra and on establishing a social security system.
Besides providing a general overview of the size and composition of the Indonesian community in Germany, a main goal of the survey is to assess the activities, capacities and perspectives of the community with regard to its commitment to development in Indonesia.

Scope and methodology used

The survey is divided into five parts. The first section provides a more general overview of the Indonesian community in Germany, including its size, demographic composition and migration patterns in the past. As most immigrant communities the Indonesian diaspora in Germany is not a homogeneous group. In the case of an archipelago of around 17,500 islands this is not surprising. The community is as diverse as Indonesia itself. The second part of the survey describes the Indonesian community in more detail. In particular attention is given to the diverse types of associations and organizations, their activities and their cooperation with each other. The third part gives a short overview of the policy of the Indonesian Government towards diaspora cooperation. The fourth part takes a closer look at the commitment and engagement of the Indonesian diaspora with regard to development in Indonesia. Selected organizations and networks that are engaged in areas such as development aid, education and exchange are described here, as well as their links with partners in Indonesia. This part will also address the motivation of these actors to contribute to development, their expectations and needs and tries to identify opportunities and challenges for cooperation with partners in Indonesia. Financial remittance flows were not part of the survey as this would better fit a separate study. The survey concludes with a number of recommendations for a more intensive cooperation with the Indonesian diaspora in Germany.

The survey has been conducted by collecting relevant information about Indonesian organizations through the internet, the Indonesian Embassy in Berlin, social media such as Facebook and Xing, official registration (Handelsregister) and personal contacts within the community. In total around 70 diaspora associations, networks and groups have been identified. Several of these organizations were contacted during the survey by phone or e-mail to verify the obtained information and to ask for their current activities. A questionnaire was developed which included specific questions about their development related activities and was sent to those persons and organizations within the community that responded to the initial phone or e-mail contact. In total 25 questionnaires were sent, of which 18 were completed and sent back. Besides the questionnaires, 24 interviews were held with key persons from the community, including representatives of diaspora organizations, students, German-Indonesian associations, individual professionals and the Indonesian Embassy. These interviews were done personally during visits to among others Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt and Munster and by phone. 8 women and 16 men were interviewed. 11 persons participated in both the interviews and the questionnaires. In addition, another 25 persons from both diaspora and non-diaspora were helpful in establishing useful contacts and providing relevant information. Many organizations did not respond to the initial contact, which could mean they are not currently active or they do not exist at all anymore. In addition official quantitative data about the Indonesian community in Germany were hard to retrieve because there is hardly any data available. Due to these limitations, this survey does not claim to represent all information about the Indonesian diaspora in Germany and all the individual views of its members.

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2 The total amount of remittances sent by Indonesian migrants worldwide in 2014 was USD 8.4 billion. Remittances sent from Germany to Indonesia were USD 59.7 million (after Malaysia, Saudi-Arabia, the Netherlands, Singapore, United States, Australia, Jordan and Japan). Worldbank, remittances data (2014).
Migration streams from and to Indonesia dates back to the sixteenth century and before colonial times. During the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, thousands of Indonesians (mainly from the island of Java) migrated to Suriname, another Dutch colony, and to a lesser extent to other places such as South Africa, Madagascar and New Caledonia. They left Java because of the poor conditions they had to live in. In Suriname, where there was a shortage of laborers, the Javanese were employed as contract workers on Dutch plantations. The Dutch in Suriname were already allowed to recruit contract workers from British India, but favored less British influence and dependence. The recruitment of Javanese contract workers lasted until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. In total 32,956 Javanese migrated to Suriname, another Dutch colony, and to a lesser extent to other places such as South Africa, Madagascar and New Caledonia. They left Java because of the poor conditions they had to live in. In Suriname, where there was a shortage of laborers, the Javanese were employed as contract workers on Dutch plantations. The Dutch in Suriname were already allowed to recruit contract workers from British India, but favored less British influence and dependence. The recruitment of Javanese contract workers lasted until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. In total 32,956 Javanese migrated to Suriname between 1853 and 1939. After the Indonesian freedom movement declared independence in 1945, the former Dutch East Indies became the Republic of Indonesia under the leadership of President Sukarno. The Netherlands transferred sovereignty officially in 1949 after an armed struggle. The majority of the mixed Indonesian-European group, who were Dutch citizens during colonial times, migrated to the Netherlands. Many former soldiers of the Dutch colonial army who originated from the Moluccan Islands in the eastern part of Indonesia were also repatriated to the Netherlands. Although the Dutch government promised their stay in the Netherlands would be temporary, the Moluccans never returned to Indonesia. Their goal of establishing an independent Republic of the South Moluccas proved to be unfeasible until this day.

While the Netherlands have a specific place in Indonesia’s history, the link to Germany does not seem so straightforward. Historical ties between Indonesia and Germany however date back over three hundred years when Germans accompanied trade missions to Indonesia by the Dutch East-India Company (VOC). Until the Peace of Westphalia the Netherlands was still part of the Holy Roman Empire. After 1648 the independent Republic of the Seven United Netherlands continued to maintain strong relations with its German neighbor until

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3 L. Lucassen, J. Lucassen, Winners and losers; five hundred years of immigration (2014).
5 L. Lucassen, J. Lucassen, Winners and losers; five hundred years of immigration (2014).
6 The Dutch East-India Company (“Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie”, VOC) was a privately owned Dutch trading company founded in 1602. It controlled the overseas trade between the Netherlands and Asia. Due to its monopoly position it brought huge wealth to the Netherlands. The VOC existed until 1799.
9 Syafitri, Sibarani & Knerr, Indonesian students in Germany: Integration and Return Plans, 2014.
foreign students in Germany after the Turkish (7% of the total). Prominent Indonesians, including former President Yusuf Habibie, studied in Germany. Their fields of study included engineering sciences, mathematics, law, economics, social sciences, medicine, agriculture sciences and language studies. These studies offered promising career opportunities and helped to enhance skills and know-how. Positive examples of successful Indonesians living in Germany furthermore motivated others to come to Germany as well, according to a research study about Indonesian migrants in Munich.10 Existing links and cooperation between Indonesia and Germany, networks with Indonesians that live in Germany already, high technological standards and educational opportunities in Germany are further reasons for Indonesians to choose to study in Germany.11 Many Indonesian students went back to Indonesia or moved to other countries after their studies, but others stayed and were able to find employment as medical doctors, engineers or managers.12 During the early 1970s, German healthcare institutions actively recruited nurses from among others South Korea, the Philippines, India and Indonesia due to personnel shortages. The total number of foreign nurses that were employed in Germany in 1973 was about 16,000.13 In particular healthcare institutions in Hesse employed over 500 Indonesian nurses during these days.14 Hospitals and nursing homes in other federal states followed. The nurses were immediately put to work, had to learn the German language and in this way integrated fast. Information about the exact number of nurses from Indonesia who came to Germany, returned or stayed could not be found. In recent years employers in the German health care sector are again recruiting nurses from abroad, including Indonesia, due to ageing of German society.15 Other Indonesians came to Germany for a more temporary stay as part of their business activities. The tobacco trade between Indonesia and Germany for example brought many Indonesian business people to Bremen and Hamburg. The tobacco trade between Indonesia and Europe shifted its center from Amsterdam to these cities after Indonesia nationalized in 1958 the tobacco plantations that were still owned by Dutch companies. In 1959 the German-Indonesian Tobacco Society was founded in Bremen.16 Indonesian representatives of the tobacco industry visited Germany regularly and usually stayed temporarily for a few weeks or months. The trade continues until this day. Bremen has the only tobacco trade fair for Indonesian tobacco worldwide.17 Since 1998 a good number of Indonesian professionals have also been working at Airbus in Bavaria, mostly coming from the former state-owned Indonesian aerospace company Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara (ITPN). Since 2012 students and professionals from among others Indonesia, India and the Philippines were actively attracted through the Make it in Germany Programme within the framework of the Qualified Professionals Initiative by the German Government18 and the Blue Card measure by the European Commission.19 It is unclear how many Indonesian professionals came to Germany through information dissemination activities by the program’s web portal and local counsellors in Indonesia. At least 10 young engineers came to Germany for an internship. Five of them received a Blue Card afterwards and stayed in Germany for employment.20 In total 206 highly qualified Indonesians came to Germany in 2014 with an EU Blue Card, according to statistics provided by BAMF. They were employed among others as engineers, researchers or ICT (information, communication and telecommunication) experts. It is unknown how many of these had an initial contact through Make it in Germany. This pilot project for Indonesia stopped at the end of 2014. Besides education and work, many – mostly female – Indonesians come to Germany due to personal relationships and marriage. According to a questionnaire completed by the German-Indonesian Society in Osnabruck, 90% of its members

12 Syafitri, Sibarani & Knerr, Indonesian Students in Germany: Integration and Return Plans, 2014.
15 Die Welt, Deutschland sucht die Welt nach Pflegekräften ab, 2013.
16 Der Spiegel, Flucht aus Amsterdam, 1959.
18 The Qualified Professionals Initiative was jointly launched by the German Federal Ministries of Economic Affairs and Energy, Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Employment Agency in 2012 to help German employers meet their demand for skilled workers.
19 EU Blue Card is a residence permit to attract and retain highly qualified third-country workers based on needs of employers within the EU, EU Council Directive 2009/50/EC.
20 GIZ, Directorate for Migration, Department Germany, Europe, 2016.
are Indonesian women and their German partners. At least two interviewees mentioned that many Indonesian women with a German partner are well-educated and were employed prior to their emigration to Germany.

After the political turmoil of 1965 followed by the takeover of former President Suharto in 1967, Indonesians also came to Germany for political asylum, although most took refuge in the Netherlands. Their relationship with the Indonesian state is rather difficult up until now, because Indonesia still has difficulties in coming to terms with the 1965 events. Compared however to the number of Indonesians who came for study or work, the number of asylum seekers was and is low. In 2014 14 persons applied for asylum of which three obtained refugee status, according to statistics by BAMF.

A special group are the Indonesians who studied or worked in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) and who could not return to Indonesia for political reasons after President Suharto took over power in 1967. After the reunion with West Germany in 1989 many Indonesians who had built up their lives in the former GDR stayed on.

Indonesians in Germany today

The Indonesian community in Germany ranks at number 66 of immigrant communities in Germany, according to the German Agency for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF). The agency counted 15,881 persons with Indonesian citizenship in 2014 (figure 1). Until the end of 2015 the number of Indonesian citizens residing permanently or temporarily in Germany was 16,738. According to the German micro census for 2014 (Destatis 2014), the total number of Indonesians in Germany was about 20,000. The census does not make a distinction between individuals with Indonesian citizenship and German nationals with a migration background from Indonesia (immigrants from Indonesia who became German citizens and their descendants who were born in Germany). Compared to the data by BAMF this means the remainder of 4,119 were Indonesians with German citizenship.

According to the Indonesian Embassy in Berlin, around 13,000 persons are officially registered although Indonesians need to register at their embassy for practical reasons (e.g. renewal of passport), the number could also indicate that there is a certain level of trust in the Indonesian diplomatic mission as representative of the Indonesian government. This was confirmed in several questionnaires and interviews.

Compared to other Southeast Asian immigrant communities in Germany, the Indonesian diaspora ranked at place four in 2014 after the Vietnamese (84,455), Thai (58,827) and Filipinos (20,589). Table 1 shows the number of immigrants of all member states and candidate members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

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21 In 1965, following an attempted coup against President Sukarno, hundreds of thousands Indonesians who were suspected of communist sympathies were persecuted, although later it has never officially been proven that the Indonesian communist party was behind the coup (Th. Friend, Indonesian Destinies, 2003).

22 See footnote 21.

23 Meetings with members of the Indonesian community who had lived in the former GDR could unfortunately not be arranged.

24 BAMF data, 2016.
Country of origin | Number of immigrants
---|---
Vietnam | 84,455
Thailand | 58,827
The Philippines | 20,589
Indonesia | 15,881
Malaysia | 4,719
Singapore | 1,922
Myanmar | 1,454
Cambodia | 885
Laos | 14
Papua-New Guinea | 41
Timor Leste (East Timor) | 1
Brunei | 0

**TABLE 1: SOUTHEAST ASIAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN GERMANY IN 2014**

The Indonesian diaspora is small compared to the large Indonesian diaspora in the Netherlands. According to Dutch statistics, around 380,000 persons with an Indonesian or mixed Indo-European (Indisch) background resided in the Netherlands in 2014. The Indonesian and Indo European communities in the Netherlands include hundreds of groups, associations, foundations that are generally well-organized.

According to the Indonesian Government, the Indonesian diaspora not only includes overseas Indonesian citizens or those with an Indonesian migration background, but also individuals of another nationality who are married to an Indonesia or have a particular interest in Indonesia. For example a German national who is interested in Indonesia professionally or privately is considered to be part of the Indonesian diaspora. However, within the framework of this survey diaspora is defined as people or ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world, which means only individuals with Indonesian citizenship and those with German citizenship, but where one or both parents migrants immigrated from Indonesia.

**Demographic characteristics and geographical distribution**

Because the official data make no distinction between Indonesians with Indonesian nationality and Indonesians with German citizenship, relevant information that can be extracted is limited. The average age of the Indonesian population in Germany in 2014 was 34. Almost 60% was under the age of 35 (see table 2). Although specific data are missing, it can be assumed that, besides Indonesian students (around 3,000), second generation Indonesians who were born in Germany and children of Indonesian labour migrants are part of this percentage.

There were 9,082 women and 6,790 men in 2014. The difference between the number of women and men is notable. It may be explained by the fact that many Indonesians that came to work in Germany in the past were female nurses who spent their entire careers in Germany. In more recent years there is an increasing number of Indonesian au pairs enter Germany. Another explanation may be that Indonesian female students in their search for a job in Germany are more willing to shift to other professions such as nursing after finishing their studies, whereas Indonesian male students rather prefer to return home if they cannot find suitable employment. Several interviewees also mentioned that many Indonesian women have been successfully searching for a German partner through the internet and in this way came to Germany.

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25 More precisely, 126,386 of the 380,000 were born in Indonesia in 2015 according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 2016.
26 Definition as used by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2014. Another definition by IOM from 2012 adds that emigrants and their descendants, who live outside their country of birth or ancestry, either temporarily or permanently, still maintain affective and material ties to their countries of origin.
27 Data on the number of Indonesian au pairs working in Germany are not available.
28 Information obtained during interviews.
TABLE 2: NUMBER OF INDONESIANS WITH INDONESIAN NATIONALITY IN GERMANY BY AGE

According to statistics (Destatis 2014) in 2014 around 19,000 Indonesians (Indonesian nationality as well as German nationality) lived in the old federal states, mainly in larger urban areas, in particular in Berlin, Frankfurt and Hamburg and to a lesser extent in places such as Hannover, Munich and North Rhine Westphalia (table 3). Only around 9% (1,441) reside in the five states in the Eastern part of Germany.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>0-16</th>
<th>16-18</th>
<th>18-25</th>
<th>25-35</th>
<th>35-45</th>
<th>45-55</th>
<th>55-65</th>
<th>&gt;65 years</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>2099</td>
<td>3925</td>
<td>3036</td>
<td>1319</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>12620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>2695</td>
<td>3947</td>
<td>3164</td>
<td>1439</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>13617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>3423</td>
<td>4022</td>
<td>3301</td>
<td>1562</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>14822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>3970</td>
<td>4160</td>
<td>3502</td>
<td>1662</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>15881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>4154</td>
<td>4187</td>
<td>3603</td>
<td>1807</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>16327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF INDONESIANS WITH INDONESIAN NATIONALITY IN GERMANY BY AGE

TABLE 3: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDONESIANS IN GERMANY IN 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Rhine-Westphalia</td>
<td>2804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bavaria</td>
<td>2131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baden-Württemberg</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>1762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hesse</td>
<td>1586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>1585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Saxonia</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhineland-Palatinate</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxony</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schleswig Holstein</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxony-Anhalt</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thuringia</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saarland</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandenburg</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 3: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDONESIANS IN GERMANY IN 2014

Education and employment of Indonesians in Germany

As has been found out during interviews for this study and based on the outcomes of the questionnaires most Indonesians in Germany generally feel integrated. They speak the German language, are well-educated and usually employed. Data on the number of Indonesians that are employed and the exact professions they carry out are limited. Based on the number of 20,000 Indonesians in 2014, around 9,000 Indonesians have at least a degree or a certificate from a vocational or higher educational institute. The total workforce in 2014 was 8,000 of which 7,000 were employed (Destatis, 2014). About 13% of the workforce was unemployed.29 By comparison, the unemployment rate for the total German workforce was 6.7% in 2014 (Statista, 2015).

Indonesians work among others as engineers, managers, lecturers, researchers, medical doctors or nurses. Others are self-employed and have a small business such as an Indonesian restaurant or travel agency or are independent consultants or artists. In particular some of the younger Indonesians work as consultants and started their own business firm in the field of information, communication, digital marketing or business development. As an important part of their business activities they link up with partners in Indonesia thereby contributing to stronger economic ties between Indonesia and Germany. Although the number of Indonesian entrepreneurs or business start-ups seems small until now among the diaspora, there is a growing interest within the Indonesian community to become more involved in entrepreneurship. This was also confirmed during the Indonesian Diaspora Forum held in December 2015 in Berlin, where the main topic was diaspora and entrepreneurship.

29 Data provided by the German Labour Office mention 364 Indonesians who were registered as unemployed and 695 were registered as job seekers at the end of 2014.
According to data provided by the DAAD, 149 Indonesians were working as academic staff at German universities/institutions of higher education in 2013. The real number is most likely higher, because it is unclear if it includes for example Indonesians with German citizenship (including the second generation). The data also do not include academics working for an educational institution, but are not part of an exchange program.

The number of lower skilled Indonesians in Germany seems rather small due to strict German labor regulations and limited employment opportunities. Indonesians work at the few Indonesian restaurants (warung makan) and Indonesian shops (toko) that exist (in Berlin among other cities). Others, mostly women, work in private households as babysitters or cleaners.
Community life and structures of the Indonesian diaspora in Germany

The old Javanese saying *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika or Unity in Diversity* is the national motto of Indonesia, and inscribed in its constitution. With a population over 255 million, more than 300 ethnic groups and over 700 languages, Indonesia is one of the most diverse countries in the world. This is also reflected in the Indonesian diaspora worldwide. Although the community is very diverse with many different ethnicities, cultures and religions, most Indonesians abroad share with each other strong affinities with Indonesia and a common Indonesian identity besides their ethnic or social background. This is also true for the Indonesian community in Germany. It is a diverse community representing the variety of cultures of the Indonesian Archipelago and in which family ties and friendship relations play an important role. Many Indonesians in Germany come from the islands of Java (including Jakarta) and Bali as has been found out during the survey. This may be explained partly because in these places Indonesians have more opportunities to meet Germans who work there or come as tourists, and obtain information about education and work in Germany more easily than in other regions where there is less German presence.

Many Indonesians are engaged in groups and associations which help them to better integrate and prevent loneliness. These organizations include Indonesian churches and mosques, cultural associations, German-Indonesian friendship associations, professional networks and Facebook groups. Organizations such as PPI (student association), PERKI (Indonesian Protestant Church) and KMKI (Indonesian Catholic Church) are within the community well-known and established. Associations are usually funded by membership, donations or sponsorships, but work is done on a voluntary basis.

Networks and contacts are usually maintained on an informal basis. People meet at social gatherings such as the yearly 17 August independence celebration, so-called Indonesian days often organized by German-Indonesian associations, Indonesian fairs (Pasar Malam), events organized by their church or mosque, at Indonesian restaurants or informally at their homes (Arisan). These events provide an opportunity for Indonesians and those who are interested in Indonesia to meet each other and deepen relations. Groups and associations mostly have loose organizational structures. Members often meet informally to raise funds, organize charity and other events or provide help to fellow Indonesians in the diaspora or in Indonesia.

The Indonesian community in Germany has no official umbrella or platform organization that represents the interests of all and for the whole of Germany. For instance, a chapter of the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN), the first global initiative to bring together the Indonesian diaspora, has not yet been established in Germany (the role of IDN will be described in more detail in part 4 of the survey). Based on statements made by some of the respondents, it seems there is not (yet) a strong need or commitment within the community for such an overall coordinating body. On the other hand, some simply had not yet thought much about the opportunities and possible advantages of cooperating with other diaspora groups more closely. Others expressed an interest for collaboration, but were not fully informed about the activities of other groups, especially in places other than the place they live.

On a more local level however Indonesian diaspora groups do make more efforts to share information among each other and work together. Key persons within the community are often member of several organizations and groups. Perhimpunan Masyarakat Indonesia Frankfurt (PERMIF) or Organization of the Indonesian Communities in Frankfurt and surrounding area for instance links about 17 Indonesian organizations in Frankfurt and surrounding area and has over 300 members. One respondent, who is the founder of PERMIF, is involved in several of its affiliated members, such as the German Indonesian Society in the Rhine-Main area, the Indonesian Club Germany and the Indonesian Muslim community in Frankfurt.

Indonesians abroad usually find each other and unite in their shared Indonesian background. Although there are differences in political views related to the current state of affairs in Indonesia and critical discussions about issues related to Indonesia are not avoided, tensions or conflicts among the diaspora in Germany have not been found. Respondents mentioned they were not aware of at least open (political) conflicts within the diaspora. This is also supported by the limited research literature used for this survey and the author’s own observations and experience. Indonesians generally tend to strive towards harmony with each other and try to avoid direct confrontations. Tolerance towards other opinions or religious or ethnic back-

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30 Helmut Pusl, Indonesische Migranten in Deutschland, 2006.
31 CIA, World Factbook, 2010; Ethnic groups in Indonesia: Javanese (40,1%), Sundanese (15,5%), Malay (3,7%), Balak (3,6%), Madurese (3%), Betawi (2,9%), Minangkabau (2,7%), Buginese (2,7%), Bantanesian (2%), Banjarese (1,7%) Balinese (1,7%), Acehnese (1,4%), Dayak (1,4%), Sasak (1,3%), Chinese (1,2%), other (15%).
The large Indo-European community adapted fairly well to poor housing conditions and unemployment. It led to the dissatisfaction and frustration grew, also due to the neglect of the eastern part of the island state for instance are discussed lively. Another explanation for the absence of tensions within the Indonesian community in Germany may be the motivation for Indonesians to come to Germany, namely for study and work. As one respondent put it, *Indonesians prefer to focus on what unites us as Indonesians in the diaspora and work for a better Indonesia.*

In the Netherlands, where most immigrants from Indonesia live, the situation differs because the composition of the immigrant community is different. There were for example strong tensions in the past between the Moluccan community, the Dutch and Indonesian governments. While the Moluccans, in particular the younger generation, still hoped for an independent state, their dissatisfaction and frustration grew, also due to poor housing conditions and unemployment. It led to the infamous train hijackings (1975 and 1977) and hostages of a primary school and the Indonesian Consulate in Amsterdam (1977). The large Indo-European community adapted fairly well to Dutch society, maintaining and nurturing their past and culture, while many never went back to visit the new Indonesia. Indonesian students, who are attracted to radical Islamic movements and become isolated within the community, pose in particular a growing concern. How many students share radical ideas and beliefs is not exactly known, but individual cases increasingly worry mosque, community and student leaders within the Indonesian community.

As described before, Indonesians in Germany are in general well-educated, employed and active in social and cultural organizations or in church. Students and professionals both mingle with their German colleagues and friends, many Indonesians are married to Germans and the German-Indonesian friendship societies include a mix of German and Indonesian members. Indonesians generally are easy-going, flexible and communicative which may explain that they seem to be able to adapt quite well to German society, despite differences in attitudes, behavior and values between Indonesians and Germans. This has been confirmed during the interviews and also by a study about Indonesian migrants in Munich. The study points out that there seems to be a strong willingness and ability of Indonesians to integrate. This could be related to the background of many (often middle class families and multicultural society) and their motivation for migrating to Germany (education, work or partnership). On the other hand, one can assume that this willingness and ability does not automatically mean Indonesians do not face any hurdles such as for example difficulties in learning the German language.

As mentioned, networks and contacts within the Indonesian community take place on a rather informal basis. Several Indonesian political parties such as the ruling PDI-P party and the Islamic Prosperous Justice Party, PKS (in particular among Indonesian students) have representatives in Germany. The largest moderate Muslim movement in Indonesia, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) is represented in Germany as well. Their meetings and activities are usually organized on an informal basis, according to respondents. There are many ethnic groups within the community, but most of them do not have a formal basis either. On social media such as Facebook there are several informal and loose groups such as *Indonesians in Germany and Indonesian students in Germany.* Some (young) Indonesians write blogs on the internet about their life in Germany. Indonesians in Germany maintain lively contacts with fellow countrywomen and -men in other countries as well. During the survey, several respondents said they maintain contact with for example Indonesians living in the Netherlands, including some who lived and worked in Germany before. These are often private contacts (family relations, friends), but also more institutionalized contacts (Indonesian students through their associations). Indonesians from Germany also attend the 17 August Independence Day Celebration at the residence of the Indonesian Ambassador in the Netherlands and visit the yearly *Tong Tong Fair (Pasar Malam)* in The Hague.

Generally it can be said that the Indonesian diaspora is organized quite well, but is rather loosely structured. Besides the many informal networks and contacts, there are nevertheless more than seventy Indonesian migrant organizations and migrant enterprises in Germany, based on estimates given during the interviews and internet search. Most of these organizations are constituted as registered associations (*eingetragener Verein*).

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33 These general observations about cultural habits of Indonesians are mainly based on longtime personal and work-related experiences by the author, interviews with Indonesians in Germany and the Netherlands and literature used for the survey.


35 Interview with Indonesian Student Association PPI, 2015.

36 *Indonesische Migranten in Deutschland,* Helmut Pusl, 2009.
active members of the cultural and social groups are often also involved in these groups. Initiators and within the community and to get acquainted with Germans, offer an opportunity for newly arrived Indonesians to integrate. In general the cultural and social community groups also of respondents, although official numbers are not recorded. Chinese-Indonesian origin. This was also confirmed by most of Indonesian students and professionals in Germany are of Toba in Northern Sumatra, where the Batak people come from. It was noticed during the survey that a considerable number implements projects aimed to improve livelihoods around Lake Nyama Braya Bali Jerman for instance that initiates and Batak Diaspora for study and these often have been Christian Chinese-Indonesians. Another explanation could be that German (Christian) health care institutions usually recruited Indonesian nurses with a Christian background. Many Indonesian churches and mosques are involved in charity, raise funds and support sometimes small projects in Indonesia such as an orphanage or street children.

Cultural, ethnic groups and religious groups

During the survey, more than thirty cultural groups and associations were identified all over Germany. These groups were identified through internet search, networks of respondents and data of the Handelsregister. The number includes professional or semi-professional groups that specialize in the traditional arts forms of Indonesia such as traditional Balinese dance, Javanese Gamelan music or traditional puppet theater (wayang). Often these groups consist of a mix of Indonesians and Germans with an interest in Indonesian culture. These groups perform during social events such as Indonesian markets (such as the annual Pasar Hamburg), Indonesian days or other cultural events. There are several sports associations, including the Berlin-based Indonesian Sports Club (ISC) which has over hundred members, the Indonesian Badminton Association Muhib in Berlin as well as several associations specializing in traditional Indonesian martial arts (Pencat Silat).

It is somewhat surprising that a community with so many ethnic groups has only two organizations with a formal basis that are ethnically defined: Frankfurt based Batak Diaspora and the Balinese association Nyama Braya Bati Jerman with chapters in Berlin and Hamburg. It seems that most ethnic groups such as the Javanese, Sundanese or Minangkabau usually come together on a more informal basis or meet at religious gatherings. These groups aim to promote their culture and people through performances, social gatherings and other cultural events. Sometimes they are also involved in charity activities with the aim of supporting local development initiatives in their region of origin, such as Batak Diaspora for instance that initiates and implements projects aimed to improve livelihoods around Lake Toba in Northern Sumatra, where the Batak people come from. It was noticed during the survey that a considerable number of Indonesian students and professionals in Germany are of Chinese-Indonesian origin. This was also confirmed by most respondents, although official numbers are not recorded.

In general the cultural and social community groups also offer an opportunity for newly arrived Indonesians to integrate within the community and to get acquainted with Germans, who are often also involved in these groups. Initiators and active members of the cultural and social groups are often also involved in other Indonesian associations and participate in informal gatherings such as the Arisan, mostly attend by women. Therefore they are a good entry point to establish contacts with those diaspora members that may be interested in CIM’s migration for development programme.

Religion plays an important role in the life of Indonesians. Officially 87% of the Indonesian population has the Muslim faith, 7% is Protestant, 3 % Catholic, 2 % Hindu and the remaining 1% adheres to Buddhism, Confucianism or other religions. These religions are all represented in Germany within the Indonesian community. The Indonesian Protestant community called PERKI (Perserikatan Kristen Indonesia) and the Indonesian Catholic community (KMKI) for instance can be found in major cities in Germany where Indonesians live such as Berlin, Frankfurt and Hamburg. PERKI is affiliated to the German protestant church (Evangelisch Reformierte Kirche). There are also Indonesian mosques, mainly in Berlin, Frankfurt and Hamburg. Unlike Indonesia, where almost 90% of the population is Muslim, respondents estimate that less than 60% of Indonesian immigrants in Germany are Christians. Around 40% are Muslim and the remainder is Hindu (Balinese Indonesians) or has another religion. Accurate figures are however absent. The presence of many Indonesian Christians in Germany could be explained by the fact that in the past mainly Indonesians with sufficient financial means came to Germany for study and these often have been Christian Chinese-Indonesians. Another explanation could be that German (Christian) health care institutions usually recruited Indonesian nurses with a Christian background. Many Indonesian churches and mosques are involved in charity, raise funds and support sometimes small projects in Indonesia such as an orphanage or street children.

Professional groups

Although Indonesians in Germany are generally well-educated and many have professions at a higher education level, the number of formally organized professional groups and associations that could be identified during the survey was limited. It seems that most professional and qualified Indonesians meet each other on an informal and individual basis. This was also confirmed during the interviews with some of the professionals. Among the official professional organizations is the German-Indonesian Specialist and Academician Association, IASI, based

37 Interview with DIG Cologne, 2015.
in Hamburg. IASI was established in 1972. Its goals are to stimulate bilateral economic relations between Indonesia and Germany and to 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 three hundred members. The organization has carried out numerous activities and projects during the past decades. It organizes seminars, workshops and conferences about a wide range of topics related to Indonesia and German-Indonesian linkages (including technology and resource utilization, economic cooperation with Indonesia and bureaucracy reform). IASI is also involved in the preparation and organization of the annual Indonesian Diaspora Forum and cooperates with the Senior Experten Service (SES), the German Alumni Association (PAJ), the Indonesian organization Indonesia Mengajar, the Indonesian Ministry of Education and others.

A recent project developed by IASI and funded by PME aims to support vulnerable youth in the southern part of the island of Sulawesi by providing informal education and training and helping with finding jobs or starting small-scale businesses.

Another initiative is called Association of Indonesian Professionals for Science, Technology and Enterprises, AIPSE, registered in Mainz, but its 10+ active members live in different parts of 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 bridge builder between Indonesian and German partners such as for instance Indonesian provinces and regions and German federal states. AIPSE also wishes to establish a database with profiles of Indonesian professionals in Germany.

BUGI (Bildung und Gesundheit für Indonesien e.V.) was initiated in 2014 by a group of young professionals and students that are based in Hannover. The group consists of about 18 active members. Its goal is to make a contribution to the improvement of the health and education sectors in Indonesia. BUGI’s members combine the knowledge and expertise to make this contribution and maintain a relevant network in both Germany and Indonesia. They include professionals in biomedicine, quality management and veterinary medicine. BUGI organizes awareness raising events and workshops and facilitates exchanges of Indonesian medical students. BUGI implements a pilot project in the Pamulang region in West Java that focuses on setting up a mobile health clinic. The activities of BUGI are partly supported by the Protestant Church of Lower Saxonia (Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst, KED).

Medical Emergency Rescue Committee Germany e.V. (MER-C) is a registered branch office of the Indonesian based humanitarian NGO MER-C that operates in the field of medical emergencies. It was established by a group of Indonesian medicine students from the University of Indonesia who wanted to give medical assistance to victims of the conflict in Maluku, eastern Indonesia in 1999. The organization is not a typical diaspora organization. It provides humanitarian assistance to victims of among others war, conflict and natural disasters in Indonesia and abroad. They provided help in Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan and Southern Thailand among others. However most members are Indonesians and their main projects until now are implemented in Indonesia. MER-C is registered in Frankfurt where some of the founders and board members now live. Representatives of all four organizations were interviewed. They know each other and are aware of each other’s activities. It seems however as if each organization works independently with German and local partners and there is not much collaboration amongst the four.

Furthermore there is an informal Facebook group called Indonesian Doctors Community in Germany. The group has about 328 members. There is no formal structure. Most participants are young doctors, but only a few are involved in developmental activities in Indonesia. Beside this young professionals group there is another informal group consisting of some older and mostly retired Indonesian medical specialists, Dokter Indonesia Bersatu. Another informal group of highly skilled professionals is called I-4 (Ikatan Ilmuwan Indonesia Internasional-4) or International Association of Indonesian Scientists, a loose global platform of over 500 members that cooperates among others with the Indonesian Ministry of Research and Technology. Its 50+ members in Germany who come together once a year to discuss topics related to global themes such as energy or environment or address issues related to Indonesia. The Belgium-based Indonesia Integrated is also a group of Indonesian executives and professionals in Europe. Its establishment in 2012 was supported by the Indonesian Embassy in Brussels. Indonesian Integrated aims to make available the skills and talents of the diaspora for Indonesia’s development and cooperates among others with the Indonesian Ministry for Research and Technology and the Indonesian State Agency for Aerospace. Its members include Indonesians that live and work in Germany.
As mentioned before informally Indonesian professionals often come together to socialize and to discuss and exchange topics related to their work and life in Germany and to developments in Indonesia. *Diskusi Reboan* for example, is another informal gathering of professionals and students from Frankfurt who meet regularly on a Wednesday evening.

Several individual professionals also initiate and develop ideas and plans for cooperation with partners in Indonesia in specific fields. For instance, one Indonesian geophysicist developed a project in the area of managing underground rivers and generating hydro-electricity in collaboration with the *Gadjah Mada University* in Yogyakarta and the *German Ministry for Education and Research*.

In addition there is a lively community of Indonesian artists in Berlin. There are painters, musicians, sculptors, graphical designers and dancers who are exploring new ways of blending traditional Indonesian arts and culture with German/Western art forms and styles. One group called *IN//NItiative* stimulates and supports artistic potential in Indonesia.

**Indonesian students**

Although Indonesia has many universities both public and private that offer studies at undergraduate and postgraduate level, many Indonesian students choose to study abroad. They wish to pursue a better education abroad and hope for a good job opportunity in the country of their study or when they return to Indonesia. They can increase their capacities and experience while abroad and bring back valuable know-how for Indonesia’s development. According to UN data about students from any given country studying abroad there were almost 35,000 Indonesian students abroad in 2012, most of them in Australia, Malaysia, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany.40

In more recent years, an increasing number of Indonesians chose again Germany as country for their studies, although not as much as roughly twenty years ago.39 There were 3,399 Indonesian students in Germany in 2014 According to data from the *German Academic Exchange Service* (DAAD) 3,210

Indonesians are so-called *Bildungsausländer* i.e. students who have obtained their higher education entrance qualification from abroad, while 189 of them have obtained it in Germany.40 Fields of study include machinery and electronics, agriculture, life stock and forestry, business and economics, computer sciences and informatics, medicine, mathematics and natural sciences, geology and social sciences. Indonesians study at institutions such as the universities of Aachen, Berlin, Bremen, Hannover, Göttingen, Kassel and Frankfurt. Most of them receive at least partly support by scholarships and grants from DAAD or scholarship programs by the Indonesian Government.41

In 2013 there were 258 post graduate students from Indonesia in Germany, which ranks Indonesia at place 19 in the top 20 of foreign post graduate students after other Asian countries such as China, India and Vietnam. Indonesian students among others come to study within the framework of one of the 128 Indonesian-German individual academic partnerships or collaborations often sponsored through DAAD.42

A study about Indonesian students in Germany commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO), shows that Germany generally is perceived by Indonesians as an attractive country to study. Nevertheless, they sometimes experience difficulties due to e.g. language barriers, the weather conditions and cultural differences.43 The Indonesian Student Association, *PPI* (*Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia*) provides support structures to those who struggle. PPI was founded in 1956 and currently has 26 branches in Germany. Its goal is to nourish the sense of unity amongst the members and foster them with a democratic approach and to strengthen the bond with national and international organizations who share the same vision and purpose. PPI helps and supports Indonesian students with their integration in Germany. It organizes and coordinates social and educational events often in collaboration with other diaspora groups, the Indonesian Embassy and German partners, such as sports events, lectures and social gatherings. PPI furthermore organizes discussions and exchanges about issues related to political, economic and social developments in Indonesia. In particular PPI Berlin has a long tradition of open debate and discussion about

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39 This could be caused by preferences for other destinations such as Australia or Japan, higher living costs in Germany and a less friendly attitude towards foreigners in Germany (Helmut Pusl, *Indonesische Migranten in Deutschland*, 2009).

40 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), 2014.

41 DIKTI-scholarships and Indonesian-German PhD-scholarships (IGDS).


43 The study about Indonesian students was carried out within the framework of a study about Asian students in Germany and published in 2014.
relevant issues. Besides PPI Indonesian students commonly join diaspora organizations, mostly religious groups or ethnic associations (such as the Batak and Balinese associations).

There are no figures how many students stayed in Germany after graduation and how many returned to Indonesia. However, it seems many Indonesian students return to Indonesia after graduation and resume their former position as lecturers at universities or other institutions. Others who for example worked in Germany during their study and who are not bound to a contract with their Indonesian employer try to find employment in Germany. Within the framework of the Returning Expert component of the Programme Migration for Development, a high number of 74 Indonesians were supported in 2014. The mostly young university graduates were given support in finding suitable employment in Indonesia and receive a financial support package during the first two years after their return.

German-Indonesian societies (DIG)

Interesting is the role of the so-called German-Indonesian Societies, DIG (Deutsch-Indonesische Gesellschaften), which can be found in e.g. Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Osnabruck and Siegen. Membership of the DIGs usually consists of both Germans and Indonesians, often Indonesian women married to Germans. The Indonesian members often are engaged in other Indonesian cultural associations or religious groups as well. Therefore the DIG’s have a strong network within the community. The DIG’s aim is to enhance mutual friendship and understanding between the two societies. They organize social and cultural events often focused on specific themes. DIGs also help to integrate Indonesians into German society and foster Indonesian culture. German members of the DIG’s sometimes are former diplomats, business people or politicians that have a strong network within German society.

DIGs are involved in charity and humanitarian projects in Indonesia such as the KIDs (Kinder in Indonesien) project of the Munich based association Swadaya or a foster child care project by the German-Indonesia Society South Westphalia.

The oldest and most active one, the German-Indonesian Society in Cologne was established in 1950 even before official diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Germany were established. The goal of DIG Cologne is to make the German public aware of the cultural diversity of Indonesia and to bring together the Indonesian and German society. The association has 200 members who are all involved on a voluntary basis. DIG Cologne maintains regular contacts with other DIGs and Indonesian diaspora groups, especially in North Rhine Westphalia. DIG Cologne also collaborates with German institutions such as museums, universities etc. On 26 September 2015 the association held its annual Indonesian Day. The event attracted hundreds of interested Indonesians and Germans from as far as Frankfurt. Besides a food market, music and dance performances, a seminar with invited speakers was hosted about the future of Lake Toba in North Sumatra.

The German Indonesian Medical Society (DIGM) was founded in 1996 by Indonesian and German medical doctors and the former German Ambassador in Jakarta. Its aim is to stimulate relations and cooperation between the two countries in the health care field. DIGM among others provides emergency care (such as in Tsunami-hit areas of North Sumatra in 2005) and 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 three hundred members (both Indonesians and Germans) working in all medical fields. It has a chapter in Jakarta.
Based on the definition used in this report, the Indonesian diaspora can be divided into two types: (1) Labour migrants (TKI, Tenaga Kerja Indonesia) and (2) other migrants (non-TKI).44 TKI-migration is formally organized by the National Board for Placement and Protection of Overseas Workers (BNP2TKI) under the Ministry of Manpower and under direct supervision of the Indonesian President.45 This labour migration usually works through Government-to-Government cooperation under special memoranda of understanding and for a limited time. Examples of this type of diaspora are housemaids and babysitters who work temporarily in countries in the Middle East and Malaysia. These labour migrants are seen by the Indonesian government as valuable stakeholders in the development agenda 2014-2019 because of the huge amount of financial remittances they send home. The other type of diaspora includes Indonesians who migrate for study, work or family reunification. This migration is usually on an individual basis and not formally organized. Indonesian labor migrants who came to Germany legally belong to this non-TKI diaspora. There is also no MOU between Indonesia and Germany for a bilateral labour migration arrangement. This type of migrants is not yet formally recognized as stakeholders for development. Until now, there is no official (written) policy on this type of diaspora by the Indonesian Government. For instance, non-TKI diaspora is not mentioned in Indonesia’s 2015-2019 national development strategy, NAWACITA (National Priority Agenda), even though priority number 6 focuses on the increase of productivity and human resources competitiveness on a global level.46

On the other hand, the international discussions about the potentially positive contribution by the diaspora to development in the country of origin, is receiving growing attention in Indonesia as well. During a visit to Berlin in 2013 former President Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono told Indonesians from the diaspora never to forget their motherland and make a contribution to Indonesia’s development, wherever they are. He praised the diaspora as being open-minded, skilful, diverse, and a huge potential for Indonesia’s development. It was the first time an Indonesian leader addressed the diaspora in Germany in this way. His visit and statement inspired Indonesians who attended the meeting, as it helped to stimulate their engagement in the development of Indonesia. Although an official diaspora policy is yet to be developed and approved in Indonesia, the meeting in Berlin can be seen as a sign of an increasing recognition of the role the diaspora can play in Indonesia’s further development.

As a concrete step towards more recognition, in 2013 a special Diaspora Desk (DDI) was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government body being responsible for the overall coordination of the protection of overseas Indonesians. The desk is headed by a senior advisor to the Ministry. It is supposed to take care of non-TKI diaspora matters, but has no formal structure, mandate or budget. DDI can coordinate with decision makers from other ministries. Each month DDI heads an inter-ministerial meeting (18 ministries and other governing bodies), but these meetings usually are attended by non-decision making ministerial staff. The meeting aims to coordinate matters related to the protection of Indonesian citizens abroad (not empowerment) and does not target Indonesians that have converted to another nationality. DDI has more regular exchanges on a more informal basis with among others IDN and GIZ. As a follow-up to the first Congress of Indonesian Diaspora (CID) in Los Angeles in 2012, DDI was also co-organizer along with the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) of a second and a third congress in 2013 and 2015, both held in Jakarta.

Other governmental authorities that have an interest in diaspora include the Ministry of Education and Culture (promoting Indonesian language and culture overseas), the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Research and Technology (attracting scientists and educational staff from diaspora), the Ministry of Manpower (labour migrants as part of the overseas diaspora) and for example the municipalities of Jakarta and Bandung (attracting diaspora for know-how transfer in urban planning). The current Minister of Foreign Affairs also has a keen interest in working with the diaspora. When she was Ambassador to the Netherlands she has been actively involved in the activities of IDN. However until now, a legal basis to formalize the role of the Diaspora Desk within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Directorate for Public Diplomacy) or another Ministry or Government body is still missing.

The Indonesian Embassy in Berlin organizes a yearly Diaspora Forum and has appointed a Diaspora Officer who maintains contacts with the Indonesian community on a regular basis. The third forum took place on 13 December 2015 in Berlin and focused on diaspora and entrepreneurship. The event was attended by over 100 Indonesians from Germany, including several who are living in the Netherlands. Indonesians who were

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45 TKI migrants are Indonesian workers with limited-term contracts (65% unskilled, 14% skilled, 21% professional engineers). They work in among others countries in the Middle East and in Southeast Asia.
contacted within the framework of the survey were aware of the role of the Indonesian Embassy in stimulating the diaspora to contribute to Indonesia’s development. The Diaspora Forum offers a good opportunity for Indonesian professionals, academics, students and other interested individuals to strengthen networks, foster relations with Indonesia and initiate new ideas and come up with concrete actions for cooperation between the diaspora and Indonesia. The forum also promotes a regular dialogue between the diaspora and the Indonesian Government. In 2015 the diaspora was actively involved in the Frankfurt Book Fair, where Indonesia was guest of honor. Members of the diaspora and the diplomatic missions worked together to make the Indonesia presentation at the fair successful and to accommodate the large Indonesian delegation. Indonesian writers and publishers who were part of the delegation held lectures in other parts of Germany as well organized and facilitated by the community. Indonesian governmental or non-governmental delegations that visit Germany usually receive appreciation and support by the diaspora, such as a recent visit to Berlin and Munster by the Governor of Yogyakarta, Sultan Hamengko Buwono X. Individual Indonesians or organizations such as AIPSE function as bridge builders and facilitate these visits. According to many respondents however, the diaspora would like to more concrete measures taken by the Indonesian government to make use of the diaspora and its resources and create incentives and facilities to stimulate actual return and a more active engagement in developmental issues in Indonesia.
Engagement of the diaspora in development in Indonesia

During the course of this survey respondents highlighted three issues that strongly motivate and drive Indonesians in Germany: (1) their successful integration into Germany society, (2) the promotion and preservation of Indonesian culture and traditions, and (3) a meaningful contribution to the development of Indonesia. As has been mentioned during the interviews and in the questionnaires Indonesians in the diaspora usually feel strongly attached to their country of origin, even when they reside in Germany for many years. They travel regularly back and forth to visit family and friends or for holidays. Several respondents said that they would want to return to their country of origin upon retirement or spend at least more time in Indonesia. Many are committed or at least interested to contribute to Indonesia’s development in some way. The number of Indonesian diaspora organizations that focus their work entirely on development cooperation however is rather small. During the survey five were identified, although there may be a few more. On the other hand many associations or groups are somehow involved in charitable or humanitarian causes related to Indonesia. They support for instance small-scale community initiatives in Indonesia, raise funds after a natural disaster (Tsunami of 2004 and earthquake of 2006) or support vulnerable groups such as street children or orphans. Whether part of an association or group or on an individual basis, developmental activities often are focused on one’s own communities of origin and are implemented often with partners on the communal level, such as churches. The Indonesian churches in Germany usually maintain relations with their churches in Indonesia. PERKI has cooperation in the field of exchange of interns and pedagogues. Again, it is difficult to mention here exact numbers, but most of the organizations and groups that were identified during the survey are somehow engaged and give support to good causes in Indonesia.

The scope of activities of professional migrant organizations such as BUGI and MER-C is more related to knowledge transfer in areas such as health and education, while IASI and AIPSE also work in the field of investment and business development. The number of entrepreneurs within the Indonesian overseas community seems (still) limited. During the survey potential Indonesian larger investors or entrepreneurs were not identified. Most Indonesian businesses in Germany are rather small (restaurants, shops, travel agencies or individual consultants). They often are involved in doing business in Indonesia, but on a rather limited scale. Nevertheless there is a growing interest in starting entrepreneurial activities with partners in Indonesia thereby stimulating economic cooperation between Indonesia and Germany. During the Indonesian Diaspora Forum held in Berlin, the topic of entrepreneurship received a lot of attention. In particular among the younger generation Indonesians new business ideas and plans are developed and start-ups are established. In Bremen for instance, the House of Indonesia has been established in 2015 by an Indonesian diaspora entrepreneur with support of the Indonesian Ministry of Trade. The aim of the house is to promote Indonesian products and support the local Indonesian economy, help to improve the capacity of Indonesian businesses and to strengthen economic relations between Indonesia and Germany.

On an individual basis, Indonesian professionals develop ideas for projects with Indonesian partners, search for German partners and play a role in the implementation as bridge builders and knowledge experts. For example, one Indonesian geophysicist developed a project in the area of managing underground rivers and generating hydro-electricity in collaboration with the Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, the German Ministry for Education and Research and other partners. It is assumed that more Indonesian academics working at German universities are involved in cooperation projects between Indonesian and German institutions, but for this study further investigation was too time-consuming.

Migrant organizations usually are aware of the relationship between Indonesia and Germany within the framework of German development cooperation, but do not seem fully aware of the PME programme. Members of the Batak diaspora for example are involved in a project implemented by their Indonesian partner, Yayasan Citacs. This initiative aims to stimulate social entrepreneurship and empowerment among the Batak people around Lake Toba in North Sumatra by introducing the use of solar energy to be produced by local farmers. Yayasan Citacs and the Batak Diaspora in Germany are in contact with GIZ in Indonesia, but their activities are not supported through PME. The Batak Diaspora also collaborates with the German Senior Experts Service (SES). SES offers retired German professionals who share their know-how with beneficiary institutions around Lake Toba.

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47 The five Indonesian diaspora organizations that were identified are: IASI, AIPSE, BUGI, MER-C and DIGM.

48 Yayasan Citacs is an Indonesian nongovernmental organization that promotes and supports the development of the Toba lake region in Northern Sumatra.
IASI on the other hand started building a training center for orphans in cooperation with a local partner in Makassar, Southern Sulawesi. Their project is supported by PME’s migrant organizations cooperation component. The interviews made clear that many Indonesian professionals and associations are interested in making a contribution to Indonesia’s development by making available their know-how, experience and networks, but would like to have more information and guidance in further developing their interest and engagement. According to the opinion of some of the respondents, this support structure both in Germany and Indonesia is currently still missing, at least is not entirely known to the diaspora. Furthermore, many individual associations are small and have limited resources. Therefore they are not in a position to develop and carry out larger development projects. They are also not always aware of similar initiatives by other diaspora groups or beyond. The younger generation Indonesians in Germany usually are interested as well to make a contribution, but not all of them have sufficient Indonesian language skills to become more actively engaged.

Respondents mentioned the following areas of interest in Indonesia where they would like to contribute: Health (exchange of medical expertise), education (cooperation between universities and other educational institutions), renewable energies, infrastructure, agriculture, logistics and good governance. (Senior) Indonesian academics and professionals in Germany are most likely the ones who could step up cooperation with Indonesian partners due to their experience and networks. They can also play the role of interlocutors and engage in capacity building projects and programs in collaboration with and backed by German partners.

On a less positive side, Indonesian administrative procedures, bureaucracy, lack of transparency and issues related to corruption and nepotism pose challenges for the diaspora to become more strongly engaged. The Dual Citizenship Law and Regulation is still pending in the Indonesian Parliament. Especially for Indonesians with a German passport the possibility of having dual citizenship is important, though not for all it seems an urgent issue. Indonesians overseas also do not possess the Kartu Tanda Penduduk (KTP), or Indonesian Identity Card which is only available for Indonesians living in Indonesia. A so-called Diaspora Card is currently being developed which may make access to the Indonesian bureaucracy easier, but the card is not yet operational.

### Temporary or short term return of Indonesian professionals

A stronger involvement for example by participating in a temporary or short term return scheme is welcomed by those Indonesians who studied in Germany and stayed on for work. The Indonesian Embassy estimates that around 70% of Indonesian professionals in Germany would be interested in participating in such a program. However their actual engagement will depend on several important aspects, according to the respondents:

1. An interesting assignment or (temporary) position in Indonesia based on a concrete demand for know-how is seen as important for Indonesians in Germany.
2. Indonesian diaspora professionals would like to feel welcome in Indonesia when they return to help out and share their experience. Some of the interviewees had less positive experiences and expressed frustration to a certain extent. An Indonesian medical doctor for example encountered obstacles from collaborating with local colleagues due to differences in work ethics and formal practices. The lack of acceptance of qualifications and difficulties in obtaining formal recognition of diplomas and certificates, especially by public institutions, is seen as an obstacle for further engagement. This has been mentioned by other respondents as well, in particular by the health professionals who were interviewed.
3. Indonesians in the diaspora would appreciate to have an opportunity to leave their jobs temporarily to focus on developmental work in Indonesia and resume their duties after they return to Germany.
4. They would like to have an appropriate fee or allowance for their services. If the period would be more than three months, they would like to have the possibility to bring along their families.
5. During the survey several younger Indonesians expressed an interest in becoming engaged in development work, but mentioned also they were too busy with their work and family obligations to actually return temporarily to Indonesia. For older or retired professionals who are more independent, it seems to be easier to share their know-how and get accepted by Indonesian society, according to an Indonesian medical specialist with a longstanding career in Germany. Nevertheless, many younger professionals possess sufficient capacity and resources and may be in a position to take part in a short term return scheme.
Respondents mentioned the need for a support structure or facilitation on both sides to stimulate their engagement in developmental issues in Indonesia and that make them better informed about possibilities for concrete involvement.

**Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN)**

During the first Congress of Indonesian Diaspora (CID) held from 6 to 8 July 2012 in Los Angeles the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) was established. Over 2,000 Indonesians from the diaspora took part in this event. The Congress and Network was initiated by former Indonesian Ambassador in the United States, Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, who until recently took a leading role in further developing the IDN. IDN has branches in over 10 countries, including the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, Singapore, China and the United Kingdom. IDN is a network of diverse members of the Indonesian diaspora which aims to be a bridge builder between the overseas Indonesian community and Indonesia, to empower and bring together Indonesians abroad and to make visible the added value of the diaspora for development in Indonesia. Their activities include initiation and implementation of developmental projects in Indonesia (including online tutoring of secondary schools and homecoming talents), networking and advocacy. IDN is for instance advocating for the introduction of the diaspora card. A branch of the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) does not exist in Germany yet. It seems the Indonesian community does not yet fully recognize the potential benefits of establishing such an entity in Germany or are not fully aware of IDN’s role, although members of the Indonesian community in Germany attend the IDN congresses. Others may feel they are not represented by IDN, although this has not been specifically mentioned during interviews.

Despite their strong attachment to Indonesia, Indonesian migrants in Germany follow political, economic and social developments in Indonesia critically. Specifically with regard to the role of diaspora, respondents would like to see a more committed role by the Indonesian Government in taking concrete measures to better facilitate the engagement by the diaspora. Some interviewees noticed less enthusiasm to deal with the Indonesian community abroad under the current Presidency compared to the previous administration. There are also doubts about the real capacity and willingness of the Indonesian Government to make it more attractive for the diaspora to return and in general about structural changes in common attitudes and practices.
Conclusions and Recommendations

The Indonesian community in Germany is small and quite well organized, though loosely structured. Out of the roughly 20,000 Indonesians residing in Germany, around 16,000 have Indonesian nationality, of which more than 3,000 are students. As most Indonesians came to Germany voluntarily for study and work, already since the 1950s, they are generally rather well-educated. Indonesians are employed in German industry and in the public sector such as academic institutions, or are independent artists, consultants and small entrepreneurs. During the survey over seventy organizations and groups were identified, although it was not possible to verify the active existence of all. The types of organizations include cultural associations such as dance and music groups, religious groups (mainly Christian, Catholic and Muslim communities), a few ethnic associations, the Indonesian students association PPI and a limited number of professional organizations. There are probably more groups or associations, but these could not be identified. Indonesian women play an active role within the community. They are active in for instance the German-Indonesian societies and have leading roles in the ethnic associations (Balinese and Batak). Indonesian diaspora organizations promote and sustain Indonesian arts and culture, stimulate contacts and relations between Germans and Indonesians and help Indonesians to adapt to German society. Many are also involved in activities related to development of their beloved Indonesia. This is done mostly in an informal way by raising funds for small aid projects. Only a few diaspora organizations have a primary focus on developmental issues related to Indonesia and carry out activities with Indonesian partners. These organizations are not always fully aware of each other's activities, although Indonesians maintain many informal contacts with each other and in this way exchange relevant information.

With a well-educated and overall employed community, it can be assumed that there is sufficient potential within the Indonesian diaspora in Germany for a stronger engagement in Indonesia's development. Indonesians bring in extra value because of their wider perspective as Indonesians living abroad, possess relevant know-how and maintain valuable networks within German society.

Despite challenges in contributing to Indonesia's development, such as financial and time constraints faced by the diaspora, the lack of concrete measures taken by the Indonesian side to attract the diaspora and general bureaucracy in Indonesia, the survey found out that there is a strong commitment within the community to become more engaged in Indonesian development.

An overall coordinating body such as the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) has not yet been established in Germany. The Indonesian Diaspora Forum facilitated by the Indonesian Embassy in collaboration with diaspora organizations such as IASI offers however an opportunity for the diaspora to learn more about each other’s involvement with Indonesia and can help create a more structured engagement.

Based on the observations made during the survey, the following suggestions are proposed here:

1. Generally it seems that many Indonesians, who are somehow involved in development work, are not fully aware of the opportunities the Programme Migration for Development could have. Many had never even heard of GIZ /PME; thus, PME could extend its follow-up activities on the contacts that were established during the survey, intensify participation in diaspora events, such as the Indonesian Diaspora Forum, and organize information meetings with key persons or organizations;

2. Professional groups including AIPSE, Batak Diaspora, BUGI, IASI and MER-C play an important role in further stimulating the involvement of the Indonesian community in development in Indonesia. PME could more actively draw their attention towards their field of intervention and enhance cooperation;

3. The twenty-two German-Indonesian societies (DIG) are also involved in activities related to development in Indonesia. Indonesian members often are involved in other diaspora groups and organizations as well. The DIG’s often have interesting contacts and networks within German society. Follow-up on contacts that were already established during the survey, especially with DIG Cologne, DIV Berlin and the German Indonesian Medical Society (DIGM) to explore opportunities for cooperation is encouraged;

4. Economic cooperation and creating business opportunities between Germany and Indonesia is of growing importance for the diaspora, in particular for the younger generation. There seems to be an increasing number of young diaspora entrepreneurs and business starts-ups in innovative industries. The young entrepreneurs and business consultants can play the role of bridge builder or brain hub, as one respondent mentioned, between Indonesian and German business interests. These entrepreneurs could be interested in the entrepreneurship component of PME. An idea could be to organize a meeting with several young entrepreneurs where
information about PME could be shared and opportunities and challenges related to doing business with Indonesia could be further discussed. For such an event, collaboration could also be explored with PT Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI), the only state-owned bank that is represented in Europe. BNI has a strong focus on migrant remittances and migrant entrepreneurship. BNI was also co-organizer of the Indonesian Diaspora Forum.

During the interviews, respondents expressed their interest in short term returns aimed at transferring know-how, but under the right conditions. Indonesians that reside in Germany for a long time and that are experienced and knowledgeable usually find their own way back to Indonesia. The younger generation is interested as well, but faces more restrictions on both sides (job and family obligations, financial constraints, lack of entry networks in Indonesia for instance). There is a need for more information about the possibilities PME can offer to those professionals who wish to return temporarily. It is suggested to actively follow-up on contacts that were established during the survey to identify the untapped potential of Indonesian professionals in Germany;

The respondents mentioned the lack of a support structure or facilitation by the Indonesian side to make their entrance easier. Until now, the diaspora feels there are no concrete measures, incentives and programs by the Indonesian Government that tap in the potential resources of the Indonesian diaspora which discourages a further engagement. It is recommended to discuss these issues by promoting a dialogue between relevant political stakeholders and representatives of the Indonesian migrant community in Germany. The outcome of the dialogue could lead to ideas and recommendations for more concrete actions for a better support structure. Interesting lessons learned could be drawn for example from a short term return programme for Indonesian professionals.

Exchange and cooperation between associations of Indonesian professionals with often limited resources could be stimulated. Perhaps it would be useful to link up with development groups and organizations within the Indonesian community in the Netherlands to learn about their approach, challenges and to identify opportunities for cooperation.

The feasibility of a strengthened engagement for development through for instance the establishment of an umbrella organization (such as IDN), which aims the enhancement of visibility, capacity and impact of the Indonesian diaspora, could be further explored in consultation with representatives of the Indonesian diaspora in Germany, such as the professional associations. However, a further exploration will only be meaningful if the Indonesian migrant organizations in Germany express a clear interest and commitment to be involved in such a platform.

Finally, one of the respondents, an Indonesian medical doctor residing in Germany for a long time, characterized the success of many Indonesians in the diaspora in Germany in four words: Concept, Commitment, Collaboration and Competence. These 4Cs form a solid basis for a further active engagement by the Indonesian diaspora in the development of Indonesia if a more formalized framework for diaspora involvement in Indonesia will be establishment as well in time.
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BUGI ..............................................................................................www.bugi-ev.org

German-Indonesian Association (DIV Berlin) ........................................www.divberlin.de

German-Indonesian Society Cologne .....................................................www.dig-koeln.de

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Indonesian Diaspora Network .........................................................www.diasporaindonesia.org

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