

IN SUPPORT OF THE  
INDONESIA AUSTRALIA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
(IA-CEPA)

Submission made by

INDONESIAN DIASPORA BUSINESS COUNCIL (with the INDONESIAN DIASPORA  
NETWORK - UNITED)

**Overview**

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The Indonesian Diaspora (Indonesian community living around the globe) in Australia serves as an important component of the Australia-Indonesia bilateral relationship by fostering positive perception and stronger ties in both countries.

The President of Indonesia, the Hon Joko Widodo, has identified the Indonesian diaspora as key contributor to Indonesia's developmental and economic goals, particularly in the area of human resources development.

The Indonesian Diaspora Business Council (IDBC) is a non-profit organisation aimed at fostering the connections between Indonesia and the country where diaspora resides (in this case, Australia) in both the private and public sector. They operate by opening doors for businesses and professional opportunities in Indonesia and for Indonesia.

The IDBC (Australia region) board is led by a Regional Director and a panel of professionals with a strong range of expertise, skills and knowledge. The Australian branch of the IDBC aims to strengthen business and industry possibilities between the two countries, and to encourage and facilitates collaboration between Australia and Indonesian institutions,

The IDBC keen to promote the achievements of IA-CEPA; trade possibilities, highlight the bonds of friendship and the mutual benefits of closer Indonesia-Australia relationship.

Therefore, The IDBC is a key stakeholder in understanding the trade and investment opportunities between Australia and Indonesia, as it can match businesses with relevant stakeholders in government ministries, industries, and nexus talents.

**The Indonesian Diaspora Network United (IDN-U)**

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The Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN-U) is a sister organisation with the IDBC, is a non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan independent network of Indonesian diaspora around the world. Its primary goal is to the nexus talents, capabilities, and vision of the Indonesian diaspora through philanthropy, business opportunities and professional connections. IDN-U serves as an interlocutor of the diaspora to the policy makers, private sectors, and Indonesian with the aim of promoting and connecting Indonesian talent around the globe. The IDN-U's key areas of interest that are relevant to IA-CEPA include education, arts and cultural exchange, technology exchange, business and investment, tourism, culinary arts, energy, and maritime affairs.

The IDBC and the IDN-U seeks to match Australia's strengths in technology, process, and people and Indonesia's areas of developmental focus.

The IDN-U and the IDBC has connections with important stakeholders in relevant ministries in Indonesia, including the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture.

The IDN-U and the IDBC's range of influence extends to media, think tanks, academics and research institutions, education, business, industry, local and state government, and non-government organisations,

## **Recommendations**

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- That the Australian government work closely and provide support to the IDN-U (and the IDBC by extension) to facilitate collaboration in Vocational Education and Training between Australia and Indonesian institutions. The IDN-U will support the education and training collaboration, while IDBC will support with collaboration with industries through work placements.
- For the IA-CEPA committee to share information about funding available for TVET development in Indonesia. One example of use for IA-CEPA funding would be for IDN-U to facilitate an exchange program for VET teachers from Australia and Indonesia for the purpose of increasing industry understanding and to address the gap in training quality. As a result, Australian VET institutions will gain students and Indonesian VET teachers will gain quality assurance, which aligns with the key outcomes outlined in IA-CEPA.
- To support IDNU in organising the diaspora network specifically in Australia to address President Joko Widodo's appeal to improve TVET development in Indonesia.
- To support IDN-U and IDBC's contributions in pursuing partnerships with Australian TVET providers to collaborate on improving the quality of training in Indonesia to produce very skilled workforce that matches the need of its developing regions.
- This submission is to be considered as a formal request for collaboration as mentioned above.



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