



## Higher Education: Preparing Indonesian Students for Learning, Work, and Community



### GOALS

Strengthen Indonesian institutions in areas of university administration and financial management.

Improve teaching, research, and extension services.

Enable Indonesian universities to engage with the private sector and other stakeholders.

### CHALLENGES

Indonesia invests only 0.1% of GDP in higher education research and development (average for East Asia = 2.6%)

Only 17.5% of university-aged Indonesians are enrolled in institutions of higher education.

A recent study reported only 11,100 scientific researchers in Indonesia compared to 1.4M in the U.S.

USAID/Indonesia is working to increase the quality and relevance of Higher Education in Indonesia with programs that embrace the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership<sup>1</sup> and recognize the leadership role Indonesia plays in its own development and the development of the region. Specifically, as part of our country strategy<sup>2</sup>, USAID/Indonesia has developed initiatives aimed at improving the quality of teaching, research and management at Indonesian Universities. One such initiative is the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program.

### PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH (PEER)

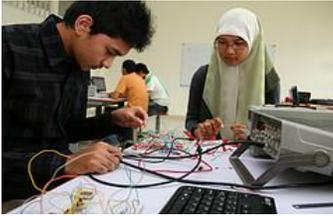
PEER is a partnership between USAID and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). Under PEER, USAID directly supports Indonesian scientists to engage in research projects with NSF-funded researchers in the U.S. There are currently many on-going NSF projects in Indonesia and many other NSF-funded scientists working on topics of relevance to Indonesia. PEER is an opportunity to expand existing partnerships and create new linkages between scientists in Indonesian and the U.S. PEER leverages NSF investments in Indonesia and helps to provide balance to collaborations by directly supporting Indonesian researchers. All projects funded through PEER should address USAID/Indonesia objectives by:

- Building research capacity through support for Indonesian students and postdocs, international travel for Indonesian researchers, communications and networking, equipment and supplies, etc.
- Addressing research topics that are consistent with USAID technical interests including food security, climate change, global health, biodiversity and other topics.
- Promoting STEM education through the development of enhanced teaching methods and curriculum in STEM fields.

USAID made its first round of PEER awards in May 2012 following a strong turnout in proposals submitted from the Indonesian research community (see below).

<sup>1</sup> [http://indonesia.usaid.gov/en/about/comprehensive\\_partnership](http://indonesia.usaid.gov/en/about/comprehensive_partnership)

<sup>2</sup> A link to the country strategy can be found at <http://indonesia.usaid.gov/en/home>.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## First Round of PEER Awards (May 2012):

The PEER program accepted its first round of proposals in late 2011. Proposals received from Indonesia and 62 other USAID-focus countries were put through a rigorous merit-review process. Out of 41 PEER projects awarded worldwide, 7 awards went to Indonesian researchers. The Indonesian awards are as follows:

### **Incorporating Bali's Subak heritage into primary and secondary education: curriculum development, teacher training, and action research**

Investigator: Sang Putu Kaler Surata, Mahasaraswati University  
US Partner: John Stephen Lansing, University of Arizona

### **Strengthening research and teaching capacity of Andalas University in climate change and natural resources management**

Investigator: Rudi Febriamansyah, Andalas University  
US Partner: Brendan Buckley, Columbia University

### **Building Indonesian research capacity through genetic assessment of commercial fish species**

Investigator: IGNK Mahardika, Universitas Udayana  
US Partner: Kent Carpenter, Old Dominion University

### **Enhancements of research for adaptation of wetlands in Indonesia to projected impacts of sea level rise**

Investigator: Frida Sidik, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
US Partner: Ilka Feller, Smithsonian Institution

### **Marine biodiversity of Raja Ampat Islands: the ARMS, morphology, and genetic approaches for inventorying and monitoring patterns of marine biodiversity**

Investigator: Abdul-Hamid Toha, State University of Papua  
US Partner: Kent Carpenter, Old Dominion University

### **Assessing degradation of tropical peat domes and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) export from the Belait, Mempawah, and Lower Kapuas rivers in Borneo**

Investigator: Gusti Z. Anshari, Universitas Tanjungpura  
US Partner: Charles F. Harvey, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### **Coral health surveys in COREMAP: building resilience in climate-impacted coral reefs of Indonesia**

Investigator: Jamaluddin Jompa, Hasanuddin University  
US Partner: C. Drew Harvell, Cornell University

Another call for proposals is being planned for later this year. Details will be published on the PEER website when they become available:

[www.nationalacademies.org/PEER](http://www.nationalacademies.org/PEER).