

Press Release

INDONESIA DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2018: IN SEARCH OF SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL DISPARITY

Jakarta – The Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, supported by Knowledge Sector Initiative, a joint program between the governments of Indonesia and Australia, hosted Indonesia Development Forum (IDF) 2018 on July 10 -11 in Jakarta. IDF 2018 is an international platform to discuss Indonesia’s development priorities, generate new ideas and seek innovative solutions that work in the Indonesian context. In its second year, the IDF forum focuses on the theme of “Pathways to Tackle Regional Disparities across the Archipelago” and brings together academics, government, civil society, development partners and the general public to offer cross-disciplinary perspectives. The theme is narrowed down to seven subthemes, namely: (1) Regional Growth Centers: What Works Best; (2) Narrowing the Gaps at the Periphery; (3) Delivering Basic Services to Reduce Regional Disparity; (4) Unlocking the Potential of The Digital Economy for Regional Development; (5) Connecting the Archipelago; (6) Innovations in Local Governance and Development; (7) Smarter Funding for Better Outcomes. This year’s IDF 2018 theme also builds on the success of IDF 2017 and its focus on “Fighting Inequality for Better Growth.”

The theme aligns with President Joko Widodo’s Nawa Cita agenda on ‘developing Indonesia from the margins’ by strengthening social, economic and human development across the whole of Indonesia, including in the country’s villages and regional growth centers. The Government of Indonesia recognizes the impact that regional disparity has on Indonesia’s growth trajectory. Differences are evident between Java and other islands, between the eastern and western provinces, as well as between urban and rural areas. The national government is therefore working collaboratively with local governments, the private sector, civil society and a range of development partners to improve connectivity and access to services and economic opportunities in eastern Indonesia. “Regional disparity is a complex and multi-sectoral challenge. At this year’s IDF, researchers, businesspeople, government officials, citizens, youth and other development stakeholders can engage in an open dialogue about the challenges of regional disparity and how they can be addressed based on sound evidence of what works, and map new and innovative approaches,” Minister of National Development Planning/Head of National Development Planning Agency Bambang Brodjonegoro said.

In addition to between regions, disparity occurs between urban and rural areas. Both have unequal basic services quality, though it’s very crucial to the citizen’s economic productivity and social welfare. In the near future, the paradox will most likely be predicted to cause larger gaps of regional disparity. This is exacerbated by depletion of local resources by more developed regions and migration of working-age populations from under-developed areas. Regional disparity between regions and within region is today’s emerging phenomenon in Indonesia. Indonesia’s strategies to address regional disparity aim to accelerate growth and development based on the specific characteristics of regions:

1. In regions where there is high potential to leverage national economic growth, the focus is on accelerating the development of growth centers and metropolitan areas.
2. Where there is untapped potential for regional or local-scale economic growth, the emphasis is on the development of regional or local centers for economic activity, rural areas, and medium-sized cities.
3. In disadvantaged areas, border regions, archipelagic regions and eastern Indonesia, policies and strategies aim to develop infrastructure and improve basic services.

These strategies are designed to address the underlying causes of regional disparity in Indonesia, namely: (1) uneven accessibility and connectivity; (2) unequal basic services; (3) suboptimal use of local resources, affected by different regional characteristics; (4) suboptimal regional development with culture diversity and society’s sociocultural issues; (5) uneven affirmative policies and development funding; (6) uneven spread of growth centers.

Ideas and innovations presented at IDF 2018 will support the government's efforts to develop evidence-based policy solutions to the challenges of regional disparity. Key recommendations delivered by IDF 2018 will be developed into concrete plans, directly applicable by policymakers. Also, those recommendations will provide input for Indonesia's National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2020-2024. The Indonesia Development Forum will feature more than 250 national and international speakers and over 95 papers and presentations –selected from 580 entries from around the world– on topics such as regional growth centers, narrowing the gaps at the periphery, better delivery of basic services, innovations in local governance and development of the digital economy and connectivity.

“We are confident that the Indonesia Development Forum 2018 will inspire many new initiatives to help tackle regional disparities across Indonesia. Australia is committed to supporting these efforts, in collaboration with our Indonesian and international partners,” Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Gary Quinlan said. Participants of IDF 2018 will hear from experts and practitioners and exchange ideas in interactive sessions. “Inspire” sessions will highlight best practices from Indonesia and across the globe to find new ways to tackle regional disparity. “Imagine” sessions will encourage participants to imagine a more inclusive, progressive and sustainable future for Indonesia. An “Ideas and innovations Marketplace” will present new solutions to address Indonesia's key development challenges. An “Initiate” session on the second day highlights action plans to address regional disparity.

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Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)

Governmental institution responsible directly to the President of the Republic of Indonesia. In accordance with the provisions of legislation, National Development Agency/Bappenas performs government duties in the field of national development planning, including assessment, coordination and policy formulation in the areas of national development planning, national development strategies, sectoral, cross-sectoral, and cross-sectoral policy directions, national and regional macroeconomic frameworks, investment analysis of infrastructure projects, regulatory frameworks, and funding, and monitoring, evaluating and controlling the implementation of national development.

Indonesia Development Forum (IDF) 2018 - <https://indonesiadevelopmentforum.com/2018>

A platform of national dialogue on development. Hosted by the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency on July 10-11 2018 in Jakarta, IDF brings together leaders in government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss solutions to Indonesia's key development challenges.

Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) - <http://www.ksi-indonesia.org/en/home>

The Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) is a joint program between the governments of Indonesia and Australia. It seeks to improve the lives of the Indonesian people through better quality public policies that make better use of research, analysis and evidence.