

Source: www.ameinfo.com» Company News/A/Abdul
Latif Jameel Co

Indonesian President opens new J-PAL office in Jakarta

The global research center, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), officially opened its Southeast Asia office with the mission to reduce poverty in the region by translating rigorous research into action.

United Arab Emirates: Saturday, June 29 - 2013

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono offered the keynote address at the launch, which was attended by over 300 international and local researchers, government officials and bilateral and multilateral agencies.

The launch event also featured speeches from Prof. Dr. Ir. Muhammad Anis - Rector of the Universities Indonesia, and J-PAL Director Abhijit V. Banerjee, who serves with President Yudhoyono on the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

J-PAL is a leading international network of researchers that specialises in determining which development programs work, which do not, and why. Established in 2003 and headquartered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), J-PAL is known for pioneering the use of Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) to test the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs. J-PAL's network of over 80 affiliated professors has produced over 350 randomized evaluations in 52 countries, and more than 63 million people have been reached by policies found to be effective by J-PAL studies.

Since 2007, J-PAL has partnered with the Government of Indonesia and local researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of and test innovative poverty reduction programs in Indonesia. These evaluations have helped the Government of Indonesia to ensure that its education, health, and other social protection programs benefit the people most in need across the country.

"We are excited to expand our partnerships with policymakers in Southeast Asia to learn which development programs are truly effective and use these findings to improve how we fight poverty in the region," said J-PAL Director Abhijit V. Banerjee. The Southeast Asia office is J-PAL's fifth regional office, joining J-PAL's offices at top universities in Chile, France, India, and South Africa.

J-PAL Southeast Asia is based at the Institute of Economic and Social Research (LPEM-FEUI) within the Universitas Indonesia's Faculty of Economics.

Prof. Muhammad Anis, Rector of the Universitas Indonesia, said, "We are honored that J-PAL SEA is opening its office at LPEM-FEUI. I believe that the collaboration between J-PAL and LPEM-FEUI will enhance both research and action to combat poverty, especially in Indonesia. The University of Indonesia strives to be one of the leading research universities, and one of the most outstanding academic institutions, in the world. Our partnership with J-PAL is in line with our vision to be a world-class research university."

Australia, through AusAID, has provided \$5.6m over four years to J-PAL for establishment of the Southeast Asia office, which will support researchers to generate more evidence on a broader range of anti-poverty programs. J-PAL Southeast Asia will also build the capacity of local researchers and policymakers to evaluate the effectiveness of their efforts to combat poverty.

J-PAL is hosting a policy and research conference at Universitas Indonesia tomorrow, where academics, donors and researchers will set the research and policy priorities of the new office.

Notes and media contacts

About J-PAL and LPEM:

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) was established in 2003 as a research center at the Economics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since then, it has grown into a global network of researchers who use randomized evaluations to answer critical policy questions in the fight against poverty. J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is based on scientific evidence, and research is translated into action.

LPEM-FEUI (Lembaga Penyelidikan Ekonomi dan Masyarakat) is one of leading research and training institutions under the Faculty of Economics of Universitas Indonesia and has been widely known for its active involvement in the economic development of Indonesia. Since its establishment in 1953, the institution's main activities have been conducting research and training aimed at solving development problems for the benefit of Indonesian society.

© 1996-2013 by Mediaquest FZ LLC. All rights reserved.

This story was posted by Siba Sami Ammari
Saturday, June 29 - 2013 at 13:35 UAE local time (GMT+4)

Find this article at:

<http://www.ameinfo.com/indonesian-president-j-pal-office-jakarta-346927>

"AMEinfo.com", "AMEinfo.com/fn", "the ultimate Middle East business resource" and "the news you choose" are trademarks of Mediaquest FZ LLC. All other products and brandnames mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Replication or redistribution in whole or in part is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Mediaquest FZ LLC.