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MEDIA RELEASE

INDONESIA AUSTRALIA SKILLS TRAINING ROUNDTABLE

JAKARTA INDUSTRY BRIEFING ON
SKILL SHORTAGES SURVEY

Based on a joint Australian and Indonesian government commissioned skills survey in Indonesia, senior representatives from major Indonesian and Australian companies have highlighted the critical need for industry-specific skills training in Indonesia to ensure major projects remain on track.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) and the Indonesia Australia Business Council (IABC) co-hosted a skills training Roundtable in Central Jakarta two weeks ago, which was sponsored by the Australian and Indonesian governments.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to brief industry and key education leaders on findings from the skills survey, regarding industry and polytechnic links in Indonesia and skill gap areas across industry. The skills survey was jointly developed by TAFE Directors Australia, and Austrade.

The skills survey was conducted in two phases:

- Phase I surveyed the 34 Indonesian polytechnics to scope skills delivery in partnership with Indonesian companies and track the relationship to the Indonesian economic corridors.

- Phase II surveyed Australian and Indonesian businesses to scope engagement with the skills training sector, identify gaps in skills and the relationship with skill shortages.

The survey showed strong support for further and deeper engagement between the Indonesian Polytechnic sector and local and international companies. Industry leaders placed a high value on additional training support from Australian TAFEs, as training programs are developed which better meet the needs of Indonesia’s fast growing economy.
The Jakarta roundtable was attended by over 50 representatives from Australian and Indonesian businesses, government as well as education leaders from 14 Indonesian polytechnics.

Australian firms represented included Bank ANZ Indonesia, Coca Cola Amatil, Leighton Contractors Indonesia, Thiess Indonesia and Boart Longyear (mining service supplier). Indonesian businesses represented included the Roundtable sponsor, Multistrada, Fosroc Indonesia, Merataus Line, and Schenker Petrolog Utama.

Multistrada and Thiess Contractors Indonesia presented innovative approaches to meeting the skills demand and nominated solutions, such as the development of partnerships with local Indonesian Polytechnics which, would be supported by Australian TAFE Institutes.

Other presenters at the Jakarta Roundtable included Austrade’s Senior Trade Commissioner to Indonesia, Mr Kym Hewitt; Multistrada’s Director or Corporate Planning and Learning, Mr Wayah Wirote; Thiess Indonesia’s Executive Manager Regional HR Development, Mr Bob Davis; Politeknik Negeri Bandung’s Director Dr Mei Sutrisno; TDA’s Director of International Engagement Mr Peter Holden; and Mr Michael Fay from AFG Venture Group.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive of TDA, said the Skills Roundtable was an historic development in the new focus on educational partnerships between Australia and Indonesia. He added that “TDA has been commissioned to begin a three-year mentoring agreement with Indonesian polytechnics. This Roundtable demonstrated the crucial role industry will play in widening the mentoring program.”

Following the Skills Training Roundtable, the IABC announced that skills training will be a key agenda item at the upcoming Indonesia Australia Business Council Conference, scheduled for 12 November 2013 in Bali. The IABC Conference has invited senior Ministers from the newly elected Coalition government to attend.

Additionally, Industry has identified the skills survey and the technical and vocational education training agenda as critical to informing the next round of negotiations under the Indonesia Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA).

For further information:

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the peak national body incorporated to represent Australia’s 61 government owned Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and university TAFE divisions, and the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC). TDA was commissioned by Austrade to undertake the Indonesia industry research. www.tda.edu.au

Australian Education International is the international Education and Science Division, within the Department of Education. AEI sponsored the initial Phase of the research by TDA to survey the leadership of Indonesia’s 34 polytechnic colleges regarding their interaction with industry. www.aei.gov.au
**Austrade**, The Australian Trade Commission, sponsored Phase 2 of the research to survey Indonesian companies regarding their interaction with the skills training sector. [www.austrade.gov.au](http://www.austrade.gov.au)

**AFG Venture Group** is a leading Australian and Asian based corporate and strategic advisory company. AFG Venture Group was contracted by TDA to manage both Phase I and Phase II of the Indonesia education and industry research. [www.afgventuregroup.com](http://www.afgventuregroup.com)

**Multistrada** is a leading Indonesian tire manufacturer. Multistarda sponsored the Skills Training Roundtable held in central Jakarta. [www.multistrada.co.id](http://www.multistrada.co.id)

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