

# USAID's Approach to Harnessing the Power of Universities to Solve Development Challenges



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# USAID

The United States Agency for International Development is an independent U.S. government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential

USAID works in over 100 countries to:

- Promote broadly shared economic prosperity;
- Strengthen democracy and good governance;
- Protect human rights;
- Improve global health;
- Advance food security and agriculture;
- Improve environmental sustainability;
- Further education;
- Help societies prevent and recover from conflicts; and
- Provide humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural and man-made disasters.

# The U.S. Global Development Lab

USAID is spearheading a bold, new approach to discover, test, and scale solutions to help people lift themselves out of poverty.

The U.S. Global Development Lab (The Lab) will accelerate the application of science, technology, innovation, and partnerships to solve some of the most complex development problems more cost-efficiently and effectively.

# The Approach

Collaborate with host-country counterparts, entrepreneurs, world-class experts from corporations, NGOs, universities, and science and research institutions to solve development challenges more cost-efficiently and effectively

## The Lab will:

- Source, discover, and scale new technologies and innovations;
- Build partnerships to co-design new solutions and take them from pilots to global impact;
- Inspire, strengthen, and link the brightest young minds in America with those in our partner countries; and
- Improve USAID's development impact by supporting scientific and innovative approaches to strategic decision making, procurement, and program design

# The Lab Focus Areas

- Food Security & Nutrition
- Modernizing Food Assistance
- Ending Preventable Child & Maternal Deaths
- Energy Access
- Water Solutions
- Child Literacy
- Financial Inclusion
- Rights, Participation, and Accountability
- Humanitarian Response



# The Lab Builds on Success

The Lab builds on the work of the former offices of Science and Technology and Innovations and Development Alliances, which produced a record of success, including:

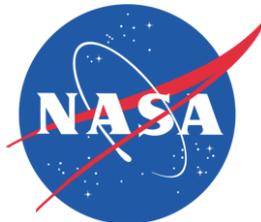
- Five Grand Challenges for Development
- Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program
- **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Program**
- Seven Higher Education Solutions Network Development Labs
- Over 1,500 public-private partnerships with more than 3,000 unique partners
- New partnership with U.S. government agencies – NASA, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of State, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Programs to Bolster Capacity of Indonesian Higher Education and Research Institutions

- Developed to support U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership to support
- Seeks to advance U.S. Indonesia collaboration in higher education through:
  - Increasing the number of Indonesians studying in the U.S. and the number of Americans studying in Indonesia
  - Promoting faculty and staff exchanges between U.S. and Indonesian universities
  - Expanding a variety of university level exchange programs
  - Promoting capacity building through a variety of (largely USAID) programs

# Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

- Launched in July 2011, PEER is a joint program between USAID and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) administered by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
- PEER provides research funding to developing country scientists conducting development-oriented research in collaboration with U.S. Government-funded researchers
- Collaborations can be new or existing, but the U.S. Government-funded partner does need to have funding at the time the PEER proposal is submitted



# Benefits of PEER

## United States

- Increases global scope and fosters international collaborations
- Bolsters research effectiveness
- Accesses local knowledge
- Accesses resources
  - Facilities
  - Unique ecosystems
  - Geological formations
  - Hydrological regimes

## Developing Country

- Funds research towards scientific innovation
- Links into international research community
- Develops science diplomacy
- Realizes development objectives
  - Informs policy and practices
  - Provides data for evidence-based programs
  - Incorporates new technologies

# PEER: Catalyzing Research Partnerships Beyond Traditional Research Collaborations



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**PEER and Traditional Scientific Collaborations**

- PEER Research Organizations
- PEER Collaborations
- Scientific Collaborations by Publication

Source: Olivier H Beauchene @ Science-Metric Inc.

Overlay of PEER collaborations on top of Bornmann, Mutz, Stefaner, and Moya data visualization available at: <http://www.excellencemapping.net/about.html>.

# University Partnerships Program

- Seeks to improve the quality of higher education in Indonesia by supporting collaboration between select U.S. and Indonesian higher education institutions
- Collaborations are typically for three years and are funded in the \$0.5- \$1.5m range
- Research areas of focus have focused improved teaching and research in (1) climate change, (2) biodiversity, (3) public health, (4) STEM education
- 15 U.S. and 1 Indonesian universities as prime institutions (16 partnerships, engaging 19 institutions in Indonesia from 11 provinces and 15 U.S. institutions from 9 states)
- Sub-recipients have included Indonesian research institutions, NGOs and private sector firms

# Lessons Learned from University Partnerships

- Evaluations have pointed to many positive impacts but suggest that USAID's support for partnerships should be longer and involve more substantial investments
- Although it adds complexity, adopting a more inclusive approach results in stronger and perhaps more effective partnerships
- Partnerships are extremely labor intensive to set up and maintain - implications for in-house staffing and administrative costs in awards
- Often see the same potential partners in a variety of situations - U.S. and Indonesian universities, private sector firms, and NGOs - very difficult to broaden base
- Identifying and working with 'champions' to understand and advocate for supportive policy
- Being aware of the cultural differences such as language, schedules and approaches
- Developing friendship and trustworthy relation rather than formal procedural relation

# USAID and DFAT Working Together to Establish Indonesian Science Fund

- DFAT, AIPI and World Bank report highlights the need to establish national science fund to address the significant barriers preventing Indonesian researchers to take part in innovative, cutting-edge science and technology.
- USAID and AusAID/DFAT are working in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia to help establish Joint Fund for Scientific Research
  - Will serve as precursor to Indonesian Science Fund

## Creating an Indonesian Science Fund

Satryo Soemantri Brodjonegoro  
Michael P. Greene



AIPI | INDONESIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
AKADEMI ILMU PENGETAHUAN INDONESIA



Thank You !