

# PRESS RELEASE



## Leadership Change at Goethe-Institut Indonesien: Constanze Michel Succeeds Stefan Dreyer

JAKARTA – After a distinguished five-year tenure as Director of Goethe-Institut Indonesien, Dr. Stefan Dreyer has concluded his service in Indonesia and the Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand region. Constanze Michel will succeed him as the new director starting 1 August 2024, making her the first woman to hold the position of Director of Goethe-Institut Indonesien and Regional Director of Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia/Australia/New Zealand.

Before taking on her new role in Jakarta, Constanze Michel spent over 18 years with the Goethe-Institut. She began her career as Head of Language Courses and Examinations in Madrid, Spain. Her professional career then continued in Munich, with her last role being the Regional Director Germany since 2018.

“The Goethe-Institut in the Southeast Asia region, including Indonesia, is a strategic focus of our institute. I am very much looking forward to furthermore extending and deepening the excellent cooperation with partners of our departments, to finding points of connections, and topics to discuss together and work on in programmes. I'm very much looking forward to knowing the Indonesian perspectives through future collaborations and interactions,” said Constanze Michel.

### Milestones under Stefan Dreyer

Dr. Stefan Dreyer headed Goethe-Institut Indonesien from 15 March 2019 to 31 July 2024. His connection with Indonesia began in 1982 when he arrived in Jakarta as an intern, teaching German at the former Goethe-Institut location on Jl. Matraman Raya. He was later assigned to Maluku to work with young teachers. Dr. Stefan Dreyer is retiring after a 34-year tenure at the Goethe-Institut, which brought him, among other places, to Budapest, Colombo, New Delhi and Seoul.

“I've had the great privilege to work in Indonesia during the last five years, in partnership with our collaborators in this country. We faced difficult and unexpected situations especially with the pandemic hitting hard. It is extremely rewarding to see how many collaborations, co-productions and cultural exchanges taken place at Goethe-Institut Jakarta or in other spaces all over the archipelago,” said Dr. Stefan Dreyer

During his leadership, Goethe-Institut Indonesien was able to quickly shift its language courses and cultural programmes into a digital format when the pandemic and lockdown occurred in March 2020, enabling language learning and cultural exchange to keep going.

In 2022, Goethe-Institut hosted an exhibition titled “Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak” at Galeri Nasional Indonesia in collaboration with four leading art institutions in Thailand, Singapore, Germany and Indonesia. The exhibition was one of the first to be held after the easing of lockdown restrictions in Jakarta.

In January 2023, Goethe-Institut Indonesien and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding into integrate

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German language classes into the curriculum of the nursing study program at the Health Polytechnic of the Ministry of Health.

Additionally, in Bandung, Goethe-Institut is developing a centre of excellence for skilled workers which provides service and coordination for its activities in Southeast Asia and creates synergies with other stakeholders from Germany.

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### **About Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programs support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

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